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Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.



"Eendracht maakt Macht"

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

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Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

Vol. XXXIII.]

OCTOBER, 1943.

[No. 2.]

UNDESERVED CRITICISMS OF THE DUTCH IN CEYLON.

By J. R. TOUSSAINT.

Ceylon is one of the few places in the world that have come under the domination of several different races. The whole island, or parts of it, has at various times been ruled by the Sinhalese, the Tamils, the Portuguese, the Dutch, and the English, but against none of these has so much unmerited criticism been levelled as against the Dutch. It is not claimed for the Dutch that their rule was entirely beyond reproach. They made many mistakes which we, in the light of our present day knowledge, have avoided; but a people must be judged, not according to the standards of the age in which the judgment is pronounced, but according to the standards which prevailed in their own day. If this canon of criticism is observed, it will be seen that the Dutch were not so blameworthy as they are made out to be. Their rule had its good points as well as its bad, and their social life partook of the same characteristics. In passing judgment on them, we must remember that they only reflected the spirit of the age in which they lived, and were no worse than other nations who were governed by the same conditions.

The Dutch in Ceylon have long laboured under the disadvantage of not having readily available records of their history, save perhaps only Baldaeus and Valentyn, and these have only dealt with particular periods. Until very recent times, the Dutch records were not easily accessible to research workers, the result being that historians have based their conclusions on insufficient or incorrect data, or on theories which have since been exploded. The earlier writers of the British period allowed their prejudices to usurp their historical judgment, and later writers have adopted their views without proper inquiry, sometimes even going further than the original detractors. By this process, a formidable indictment has been built up against the Dutch, shewing their rule and their social life in a very unfavourable light.

It is not possible within the limits of a short paper to deal with all the criticisms that have been levelled against the Dutch. It will be sufficient to mention only the principal ones. A favourite charge is that the Dutch adopted an attitude of servility towards the Kandyan Court, calling the King by high-sounding titles to gratify his vanity, and adopt-

ing the most humiliating postures before him.¹ All this may be true, but it is not true of the Dutch alone.² All European nations who had dealings with Eastern potentates at this period found it to their advantage to pander to the vanity of these despots in order to gain trading facilities. In the year 1632 a merchant belonging to a European nation other than the Dutch visited an Indian nabob. On being taken into his presence he made obeisance to the nabob, who in return slipped off his sandals and presented one foot to the merchant to kiss, which the latter twice refused to do, but in the end dignity had to give way to expediency. It was only after this mark of respect to an Eastern court had been paid that the nabob agreed to discuss matters of trade.³ This incident is only mentioned to show that a good deal must be left to the judgment of the persons immediately concerned, and that it is not fair to judge a whole nation by the isolated acts of individuals.

The surrender of Colombo to the British by the Dutch in 1796 is another matter in which much undeserved censure has been heaped on the latter. It owed its origin to Captain Robert Percival, an officer of the 19th Foot, who took part in the operations against Ceylon. He was inspired by no kindly feelings towards the Dutch, and took every opportunity of misrepresenting them and holding them up to ridicule. He attributed the surrender of Colombo to incompetence, drunkenness, mutiny, treachery, and pusillanimity on the part of the Dutch forces in Colombo. He could not find language sufficiently strong to condemn their conduct.⁴ For a long time the Dutch remained under this overwhelming stigma, and it is only in recent years that the picture drawn by Percival has been found to be not a true one. Mr. Anthoniez and Mr. Reimers exposed the weakness of the charges, and the whole position has been ably summed up by Mr. L. A. Mills in his admirable book "Ceylon under British Rule", from which the following quotation is taken:—

"The Dutch seem to have made active preparations for the defence of Colombo, and strong defensive positions were prepared near the town. Meanwhile, the British slowly advanced along the coast, and arrived near Colombo early in February, the Dutch abandoning with little resistance their outlying fortifications Van Angelbeek has been accused of treachery because he ordered the abandonment of the strong defences prepared north of Colombo. The charge seems unjust, since the presence of the British fleet exposed the defenders to the risk of being cut off by a landing party. Another reason for the withdrawal was the presence of a Kandyan army north of the Kelani River and the possibility of their outflanking the Dutch".⁵

Mr. Mills continues:—"Governor Van Angelbeek was accused of treachery because of his surrender, but the charge appears to be without foundation. The Governor seems to have done his best to prepare for resistance, and there is no indication that he considered surrender until

1. Knox as reproduced in Philalethes' work, p.p. 363, 354.

2. Pieris' "Ceylon and the Hollanders" p.p. 109—111

3. E. F. Oten's "Travels in India" p. 174

4. Percival's "Ceylon" p.p. 89—96

5. L. A. Mills' "Ceylon under British Rule", p. 13

about February 10, when the British were already encamped before the walls of Colombo. The dominating factor in the situation seems to have been the overwhelming strength of the attackers, and the helplessness of the defenders owing to the unreliability of the native troops. Since the British offered terms far more generous than Van Angelbeek could have expected, he can scarcely be censured for deciding that his wisest course was to agree with his adversary quickly".⁶ This effectually disposes of the stigma under which a brave people have lain for more than a hundred years. It is to be noted that recent events have shewn that a surrender, which might appear inexplicable to the lay mind, might yet have been dictated by considerations other than cowardice and treachery.

It is often alleged that the aims of the Dutch in Ceylon were purely mercenary; that they paid their employees very small salaries, thus compelling them to resort to dishonest means; and that administration in the interests of the country was entirely neglected. This was not the opinion held by the Directors of the English East India Company. They were faced with the same problems in India as the Dutch encountered in Ceylon, but they held up the Dutch system as a model to their subordinates in the chief offices in their settlements. Having carefully studied the Dutch methods, they remarked that there was "great wisdom and policy" in them. "Our aim on the whole" they said, "is to set up the Dutch government among the English in the Indies (than which a better cannot be invented) for the good of posterity and to put us upon an equal footing of power with them to offend or defend, or enlarge the English dominions and unite the strength of our nation, under one entire and absolute command subject to us, as we are and ever shall be, dutifully to our own sovereign".⁷

The Dutch are accused of having placed the interests of trade before everything else, but the early English passed a more generous judgment on them. "The wise Dutch" wrote the Directors of the English East India Company in 1689, "in all their general advices that we have seen, write ten paragraphs concerning their government, their civil and military policy, warfare, and the increase of their revenue, for one paragraph they write concerning trade".⁸ This effectually disposes of the threadbare argument that the Dutch in Ceylon were traders first and then administrators; but even if it were so, there is nothing to cavil at, because trade was in those days the primary object of all colonising nations. It was said of another trading Company that "their calculations were in terms of the ledger and their ambitions took shape in the phrases of the letter book. To buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest was their guiding principle".⁹

Another taunt flung at the Dutch is that they prohibited the Moors and Malabars from possessing house property in the Fort and Pettah.¹⁰

6. Ibid pp. 14, 15.

7. Galetti's "The Dutch in Malabar," p. 28

8. Ibid

9. Arnold Wright's "Early Adventurers in the East." p. 35

10. Resolution of Dutch Government dated 3rd February, 1747

This prohibition they later relaxed and Moors and Malabars were permitted to possess house property in certain parts of the Pettah. Far from condemning the policy of the Dutch in this matter, the early British Government regarded with indignation the attempts that were being made by the Moors and Malabars to obtain possession of houses in other parts of the Pettah than those allowed, and took steps strictly to enforce the prohibition, declaring all purchases made by Moors and Malabars within the prohibited area to be null and void.¹¹ It is to be noted that this prohibition was only withdrawn after it had been in operation for fifteen years.¹²

Captain Percival was the first writer in British times to draw attention to the fact that Ceylon was not producing all the grain it was capable of. He attributed it to the fact that the people of the country had no incentive to greater effort owing, as he says, "to the abundance of spontaneous productions with which nature supplied them". This was quite correct as far as it went, but he goes on to say: "The Dutch, however, by a well-directed policy, and by holding out proper encouragement, might have in a great measure overcome the indolence arising from these causes, and might have taught them to know and appreciate the comforts and enjoyments arising from industry and affluence..... These measures, however, were entirely overlooked and culpably neglected by the Dutch Governors".¹³

This is a flagrant perversion of the truth. The Dutch did all they could, with the means at their disposal, to build irrigation works and to extend cultivation by providing facilities for the acquisition of land on easy terms. Governor Sir Henry Ward, addressing the Legislative Council in 1858, said: "The most thrifty of our predecessors, the Dutch, found it good economy to encourage the agriculture of the low country by costly works, which we have allowed to fall into decay; and I say it with regret, as an Englishman, in traversing the Giruwa Pattu and the fertile district in the neighbourhood of Tangalle, the least observant traveller may trace the exact line where the Dutch irrigation system has ceased to exercise its beneficent influence".

One hears a great deal about the severity of the punishments provided by the Dutch laws for certain offences connected with the cinnamon industry. It is said that death was the punishment for destroying or stealing a single cinnamon plant. This, if true, may have been the maximum *provided* in order to serve as a deterrent, just as we ourselves at the present day provide maximum punishments in regard to a great many offences, but the question is whether the extreme rigour of the law was ever enforced habitually by the Dutch for offences connected with the cinnamon plant. Even if they did so it would furnish no ground for adverse comment, as people in the olden days held ideas widely different from ours about the measure of punishment for certain offences. Until not so very long ago the offence of sheep stealing was punishable by death in England.

11. Proclamation dated 2nd June, 1817

12. Regulation No. 2 of 1832

13. Percival's Ceylon, p.p. 362, 363

Practices which at the present day are regarded as being entirely in accordance with economic laws, were, when observed by the Dutch, attributed to unworthy motives. Take the case of cinnamon. Many writers make much of the fact that when the cinnamon bushes yielded a superabundant crop, bales of cinnamon were burned, or otherwise destroyed, both in Ceylon and Holland, to keep up the exorbitant price demanded and obtained for the spice, and they attribute this to the cupidity of the Dutch. But much the same thing happens at the present day in regard to salt, which is a Government monopoly. When self-formed salt occurs in places where it is difficult to collect it, the salt is rendered unfit for use by being trampled on by cattle. But we have never heard anybody inveigh against this practice as being harsh and unjust. It is recognized as being a necessary and justifiable step in the maintenance of a Government monopoly.

Hard things have been said against the Dutch, but it is doubtful whether a more sweeping condemnation could have been pronounced on slighter grounds than is contained in the following statement made by a writer on Ceylon who was never in the island:—"The Dutch did not bend before the grim Moloch of religious bigotry, nor did they worship at the shrine of superstition; but cent per cent was their faith, gold was their object, and Mammon was their god".¹⁴ The writer in question is the Rev. Robert Fellowes, who adopted the nom-de-plume of "Philaethes". The only merit in the quotation is that it furnishes a good example of the adaptation of Biblical phraseology to secular purposes: as a statement of fact it is entirely wide of the truth. Expressed in plain language, it means that the Dutch were quite indifferent to the claims of religion, being actuated purely by mercenary motives. It is not denied that one of the objects of all trading companies established in the East in the 17th century was the earning of large dividends, but it is not true to say that the Dutch alone, of all nations, were actuated by other than altruistic aims. The history of their rule in Ceylon shows what great importance they attached to the propagation of their faith; and although opinions may differ as to the methods they employed, everyone is agreed that they were sincere in their desire to spread a knowledge of the Christian religion.

In this connection it is interesting to recall the words of Bishop Chapman written shortly after his arrival in Ceylon in 1845. He said:—"The whole province was divided into 32 parishes by the Dutch, who built a Church, a manse, and a school-house in each. Many of these buildings still remain, some in ruins, others appropriated to any use which the local government may authorise. They are witnesses against us. The Dutch did more for the propagation of a less pure faith than we do for the extension of our own. Were British rule to become, in the changes brought about by the providence of God from year to year, a fact of history tomorrow, no visible impress would be seen of our faith in the whole face of the land. With the Dutch it was different. They conquered, they colonized, often they converted the people. Everywhere they built schools and Churches. Everywhere to this day in the

14. Philaethes' History of Ceylon p. 141

maritime provinces we see traces of them. We use them, but we strive not to emulate them, because they did not all things well; we think and talk about their faults, but little imitate that in which they are clearly imitable".¹⁵ Since these words were written the Church of Ceylon has made a notable advance, but the quotation serves to show what a high estimate was formed of the work done by the Dutch for the propagation of the Gospel by one whose opinion is entitled to weight.

One of the commonest charges made against the Dutch is that they insisted on a profession of the Reformed Faith as a condition precedent to the employment of people of the country in Government posts. The first writer to make this assertion was the Rev. James Cordiner, and other writers who followed him have all repeated the statement without proper examination. This is what he said:—"Although the Dutch did not, like the enthusiasts of Portugal, employ open force to propagate their religious faith, they adopted measures which, in their general success, were no less effectual. A proclamation was issued that no native could be raised to the rank of a modeliar or admitted into any employment under the State without subscribing to the Helvetic confession and professing to be a member of the Reformed Church".¹⁶ In view of the gravity of the charge, the late Mr. E. H. vander Wall, a past President of the Dutch Burgher Union, caused a careful investigation to be made into the published list of placats of the Dutch Government, but no such placat could be found. Until conclusion affirmative evidence is adduced, the charge must be treated as not proved.¹⁷

An attempt has also been made to show that so closely did the people of the country associate religion with Government office that they called themselves "Government Christians".¹⁸ The allegation is made by the Rev. W. M. Harvard, a Methodist missionary, and is based on the supposed authority of Dr. Buchanan, but this learned divine said no such thing. All he said was: "From the Hindoo temple of Ramisseram I crossed over to Ceylon, keeping close to Adam's Bridge. I was surprised to find that all the boatmen were Christians of Ceylon. I asked the helmsman what religion the English professed who governed the island. He said he could not tell, only that they were not of the Portuguese or Dutch religion".¹⁹ Dr. Buchanan says not a word about Government Christians. It is quite possible that an ignorant man here and there, on being asked what his religion was, may have answered "the Government religion", meaning thereby the religion professed by the governing race, but it is not fair to draw a general conclusion from isolated incidents. Even in our own day, many an educated man, on being asked what his religion is, would reply "Church of England", or "Dutch Reformed Church", but nobody, for this reason, would draw an inference unfavourable to the methods employed by the religious bodies concerned.

(To be concluded)

15. C. H. Christie David's "Short History of the Church of England in Ceylon,"
16. Cordiner's "Ceylon", Vol. i, p. 155 [p. 29]
17. D. B. U. Journal, October 1932, p. 48
18. Harvard's "Narrative", p. LXV
19. Dr. C. Buchanan's "Christian Researches in Asia". p. 90

GENEALOGY OF THE MAARTENSZ FAMILY OF CEYLON.

(Compiled from authentic records by the late Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, and brought up to date by Mr. D. V. Altendorff.)

I.

Jan Maartensz of Suchtelsn, Ensign, married Gertruida Pietersz, daughter of Pieter Huybrechtsz Pietersz of Rotterdam. He had by her a son, Jan, who was a Koopman, and who died at Pulicat leaving a son, Anthony, who follows under II.

II.

Anthony Maartensz, Vryburger of Jaffnapatam, died in 1745, married Magdalena Elisabeth Verwyk, and he had by her, with three other sons who died without issue, the following:—

- 1 Louis, who follows under III.
- 2 Erasmus, who follows under IV.

III.

Louis Maartensz, Negotie Boekhouder, born 1780, married.

- (a) 11th February 1753, Dorothea Magdalena Cramer, daughter of Jurgen Cramer.
- (b) Anna Christina Vertagen, daughter of Jacobus Vertagen and Dorothea Schrader. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 69).

Of the first marriage he had:—

- 1 Magdalena Elisabeth, married Abraham Lodewyk de Niese.

IV.

Erasmus Maartensz, Boekhouder, born 1736, married Maria Elisabeth Franz. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. II, page 31). He had by her:—

- 1 Anthony, who follows under V.
- 2 Johannes Alexander, who follows under VI.

V.

Anthony Maartensz, Onder Koopman and Administrateur of Trincomalee, born at Jaffna, 1st November 1766, married 12th October 1795, Gertruida Adriana Petronella Hartsz, and he had by her:—

- 1 Erasmus Hendrik, who follows under VII.
- 2 John George, born 1798, died young.
- 3 Louis Mattheus, who follows under VIII.
- 4 Gerardus Jacobus, born at Trincomalee in 1803, married there in 1826, Mary Mistral Dormieux, and left a daughter, who married..... Stephen.

VI.

Johannes Alexander Maartensz, Boekhouder, born at Jaffna in 1770, married:—

- (a) 16th December 1798, Johanna Elisabeth Vander Spar.
- (b) 16th September 1804, Susanna Elisabeth Hester Mooyart, born 15th October 1781, daughter of Wouter Christoffel Mooyart, and Cornelia Anthonia Dormieux. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. II, page 31).

Of the first marriage, he had:—

- 1 Johan Adriaan, born 3rd May 1804.
of the second marriage, he had:—
- 2 Wouter Jacob Nicolaas, who follows under IX.
- 3 Johan Gerard, born 1809, died young.
- 4 Dorothea Constantia, born 1814, married 26th June 1834, Edward Christiaan Albrecht.
- 5 Maria Cornelia, born 1818, married Johannes Michael Gratiaen, born 18th September 1805, died 28th July 1862, son of Gustavus Adolphus Gratiaen and Maria Euphrosina Vander Sprinkel. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 18).
- 6 Harriet Carolina, married 5th May 1846, Pieter Henry Lucian Koch, born 5th May 1813, died 1887, son of Johann Godfried Koch and Susanna Isabella Brohier. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 128, and Vol. XXXI, page 195).
- 7 Ferdinand Adolphus, sub-Collector of Customs, Point Pedro, born 1824, married ...Speldewinde.

VII.

Erasmus Hendrik Maartensz, born at Jaffna in 1796, married at Trincomalee (Governor's licence dated 25th August 1824) Marianne Adair, by whom he had:—

- 1 Henry Charles, married 18th November 1857, Sara Hunter, and died in the Straits Settlements leaving issue.
- 2 John George, who follows under X.

VIII.

Louis Mattheus Maartensz, born at Trincomalee in 1801, married:—

- (a) At Jaffna, 25th July 1826, Henrietta Anthonia de Niese.
- (b) At Trincomalee, 20th December 1827, Angelina Schultz, daughter of Fredrik Schultz and Jose Baltina Hartsz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 105).

Of the second marriage, he had:—

- 1 Alexander Godlieb, who follows under XI.
- 2 Daughter, married.....de Witt.
- 3 Susan Frances, born 1835, died at Trincomalee, 20th August 1852.

IX.

Wouter Jacob Nicolaas Maartensz, born 1807, married at Jaffna in 1849, Jane Margenout, and he had by her:—

- 1 Alexandrina Grace, married at Jaffna, 30th November 1881, George Wallace Toussaint, born 21st May 1854, son of John Henry Toussaint and Mary Anne Gratiaen. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. IV, pages 41 and 42, and Vol. VI, page 18).

X.

John George Maartensz, married Catherine Koch, born 2nd March 1844, daughter of Louis Henry Koch and Louisa Maria Brechman. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, pages 128 and 129). He had by her:—

- 1 Catherine Clarice, born 16th April 1877.

XI.

Alexander Godlieb Maartensz, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Civil Medical Department, born 27th November 1830, died 30th November 1902, married:—

- (a) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 30th July 1862, Johanna Henrietta Wendt, born 22nd March 1838, died 29th July 1879, daughter of Johan Frederick Wendt and Ninette Elisabeth Kriekenbeek. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. V, pages 65 and 70.)
- (b) In St. Stephen's Church, Trincomalee, 15th June 1881, Emmeline Agnes Buttery, born 26th September 1860, died 5th November 1896, daughter of William Henry Buttery and Caroline Sophia Roelofs.

Of the first marriage, he had:—

- 1 Eliza Alexandra born 15th July 1863, married:—
 - (a) In St. Stephen's Church, Trincomalee, 27th February 1879, Francis Adolphus Speldewinde, born 31st March 1849, died 20th May 1887, son of Simon John Speldewinde and Frances Ann Riberg.
 - (b) In St. Andrew's Church, Batticaloa, 28th April 1897, Edwin de Livera, M.B.C.M., (Glas) Provincial Surgeon, Civil Medical Department, born 25th May 1849.
- 2 Alexander Godlieb, who follows under XII.
- 3 Isabella Louisa, born 14th August 1866, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 18th September 1889, Ernest Henley Joseph, V.D., Lieutenant Colonel Commanding the Ceylon Garrison Artillery, Secretary of the Municipal Council, Colombo, born 16th June 1868, died 13th April 1941, son of Abraham Orlando Joseph, Proctor and Notary Public, and Louisa Elisabeth van Langenberg, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XII, page 27).
- 4 Mary Frances Ninetta, born 22nd June 1868, married in St. Stephen's Church, Trincomalee, 13th October 1890, Reginald Cecil Buttery, born 21st October 1868, son of William Henry Buttery and Caroline Sophia Roelofs.
- 5 Jane Anna, born 11th June 1871, married at Kuala Lumpur, Spencer Colomb.
- 6 Clara Angelina, born 8th June 1873, married 13th October 1890, Theodore Caldera.
- 7 Lewis Matthew, who follows under XIII.
Of the second marriage he had:—
- 8 Agnes Beatrice, born 7th March 1882, married in St. Stephen's Church, Trincomalee, 10th December 1903, Arthur Justin Daniel, Government Surveyor, born 8th October 1869, died 11th March 1942, son of Peter Daniel, Proctor, and Jane Barbara Christoffels. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 15).
- 9 Florence Eugene, born 22nd February 1885, died 8th September 1885.
- 10 Henry Hartsz, who follows under XIV.
- 11 Cecil Anthony, who follows under XV.

- 12 Wilhelm Karl, who follows under XVI.
 * 18 John George, who follows under XVII.

XII

Alexander Godlieb Maartensz, born 2nd June 1864, died 21st July 1935, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 26th January 1905, Edith Isabel Pereira, born 9th October 1874, daughter of James Alexander Pereira and Agnes Sophia Van Cuylenburg. He had by her:—

- 1 Edith Alexandra, born 18th March 1906, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Regent Street, Colombo, 21st September 1927, Meredith Edwin Walker, born 16th April 1893.
- 2 Ruth Kathleen, born 14th December 1908, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 18th December 1937, Leonard Gordon Loos, born 2nd February 1906, son of Guy Errol Loos, Superintendent of Minor Roads, Kalutara, and Alice Eleanor de Hoedt.
- 3 Hugh Alexander, born 8th October 1915, died in infancy

XIII

Lewis Matthew Maartensz, Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court, Barrister-at-Law, Middle Temple, born 9th July 1876, died 14th January 1942, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 6th July 1905, Alice Emmeline Clare Keuneman, born 18th July 1880, daughter of Gerald Edward Keuneman, J.P., Crown Proctor, Matara, and Alice Harriet Ernst. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, pages 91 and 202). He had by her:—

- 1 Aline Alice, born 24th September 1906, married in the Great Horton (Wesley) Church, Bradford, Yorks, 11th July 1936, Dr. John Douglas Fergusson.

XIV

Henry Hartsz Maartensz, Surveyor, born 16th July 1885, married in Christ Church, Tangalla, 29th December 1909, Elaine Phenice de Zilwa, born 16th September 1882, daughter of James Henry de Zilwa and Catherine Leonora Daviot. He had by her:—

- 1 Godlieb Henry Hartsz, born 3rd May 1914.
- 2 Elaine Lorna, born 24th October 1915, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 7th November 1942, Malcolm Kelly.
- 3 Ivan Clive Hartsz, born 20th August 1917, died 4th May 1918.
- 4 Phenice Leonora Louise, born 25th March 1922, married 5th November 1942, Frederick de Costa.

XV

Cecil Anthony Maartensz, born 30th September 1890, married:—

- (a) In St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 8th February 1921, Hannah Driberg, born 13th October 1896, died 30th June 1926, daughter of Walter Dionysius Driberg, Crown Counsel, and Louisa Susan Theile.
- (b) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 15th September 1928, Louise Driberg born 8th March 1898, sister of (a) supra.

Of the first marriage, he had:—

- 1 Louise Cecile, born 4th November 1923, died 25th November 1923.

XVI

Wilhelm Carl Maartensz, born 11th May 1893, died 11th May 1924, married in St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 5th September 1923, Lucy Helen Ohlmus Ebert, born 7th February 1903, daughter of James Dunbar Ebert and Adeline Ruth Ohlmus. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVII, page 178). He had by her:—

- 1 William Karl, born 8th June 1924.

XVII

John George Maartensz, born 12th April 1895, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Regent Street, Colombo, 4th June 1918, Gladys Lillian Jansz, born 23rd December 1896, daughter of John William Jansz and Lillian Emile Rulach. He had by her:—

- 1 Yvonne Lillian, born 28th December 1919, died 29th July 1932.
- 2 Lloyd George, born 30th December 1921.
- 3 Lester Malcolm, born 14th June 1923.
- 4 Gladwin Earle, born 3rd August 1924.
- 5 Lancelot Vivian, born 27th June 1926.
- 6 Edgar Aubrey, born 26th July 1927.
- 7 Derrick Rheinhardt, born 18th November 1928.
- 8 Yvette Joan, born 4th November 1929.
- 9 Trevor Mauritsz, born 30th January 1931.
- 10 Rex Ivor, born 23rd February 1932.
- 11 Pamela Jean, born 3rd January 1934.

Notes:—(1) The following translation of an extract from the Book of Appointments of the Dutch East India Company's Servants, No. 2821D, Folio 62, refers to Louis Maartensz, mentioned under III:—

Louis Maartensz of Jaffna, who was received into the service of the Company in the year 1746 as Soldier on 9 guilders a month and is at present employed in the Commandement of Jaffna, is, on his application, promoted by these presents to Junior Assistant, and accordingly placed on a salary of 20 guilders a month on an agreement for 3 years beginning from to-day.
 Colombo, the 24th April 1751.

(2) The following is a translation of a letter written in Dutch on the eve of the siege which ended with the capture of Trincomalee by the British, and the second signatory was Anthony Maartensz, referred to under V:—

TRINCOMALEE, 1st Aug. 1795.

To

His Excellency, the Right Hon'ble John Gerald Van Anglebeek, Ordinary Counsellor of the Netherlands India, Governor and Director of the Island of Ceylon, with the Dependencies thereof, and to the Council at Colombo.

Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Yesterday and the day before, eight three-masted ships and five two-masted ships, came within sight and disappeared towards the evening. This morning they are lying at anchor on the Eastern side of Kottiar

Coast. They appear to be English ships. In case they attack us, we are ready to defend ourselves even in the event of a siege. From information received from Jaffna, we are led to suppose that the English intend to make a hostile invasion against us.

We have the honour, with deep reverence, to be Honourable Sir and Sirs,

Your Most Obedient Servants,
J. G. FORNBAUER,
ANTH. MAARTENSZ,
JOHN BARTHOLOMEUSZ.

(3) Wilhelm Karl Maartensz, referred to under XVI, served in the Great War, 1914-1918, as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XIV, page 5).

AN ACCOUNT OF CEYLON.

BY THOMAS PENANT.

(Continued from page 29 of the issue for July, 1943.)

Pigeons in India assume the most beautiful colours. The pompadour pigeon of this island, Brown's Illustr. Lib. xix, xx, the general colour of which is a fine pale green; the male distinguished by having the coverts of the wings of a fine pompadour colour, is one proof. I mention this in particular, on account of its history; but more so for that of the magnificent tree on which it usually alights to feed.

This species swarms in certain seasons in the island of Ceylon, particularly when the fruit of the *Ficus Indica*, or broad leaved Waringen, is ripe. They alight in vast multitudes on that grotesque tree, and are caught with bird-lime by the natives, who prepare the twigs against their arrival. Mr. Loten informed me, that when he was Governor in Ceylon, one morning at break of day he saw some hundreds entangled on the boughs of the great Waringen tree, before his window, and ordered one of his Ceylonese servants to take them off. They are excellent food, and are often shot by the Europeans. They are observed never to alight on the ground, but to perch on high trees and give this the preference, on account of the fruit. It is for the same reason the haunt of various other birds; but notwithstanding the sweetness of the fruit, it is neglected by mankind.

This tree immediately attracted the attention of the ancients. Onesicritus, the philosopher, who followed Alexander the Great in his expedition into India, commanded his galley, and recorded his actions, first gives us an account of this wonderful tree. For this, at least, he does not merit the severe remark made on him by Strabo, lib. xv. p. 1022, who seems incredulous to all he says; possibly there may be other points in which he may be also defended. This tree rises high in the air, then drops its boughs, which take root, and successively create new stems till a vast extent is covered with the arched shade. It is even said to form of itself a forest of arched avenues, and a labyrinth or alleys, impenetra-

ble by the rays of the vertical sun; perhaps the extent may be exaggerated. We will content ourselves with giving the dimensions of one near Manjee, west of Patna; the diameter of which was from three hundred and sixty-three feet, to three hundred and seventy-three: the circumference of the shadow at noon, eleven hundred and sixteen; that of the several stems, which were no more than fifty or sixty, nine hundred and twenty-one. Hundreds of people may find a comfortable retreat beneath its foliage. Such is the account given by the voracious Mr. Marsden, in page 131 of his excellent history of Sumatra.

Pliny, lib. xii. c. 5, gives the fullest description; he was best qualified, for by the time he lived, the Romans got tolerably well acquainted with the country. His account is elegant and faithful: speaking of the trees of India, he says:—

"Ficus ibi exilia poma habet. Ipsa se semper ferens, vastis dissunditur ramis: quorum imi adeo in terram curvantur, ut annuo spatio infigantur, novamque sibi propaginem faciant circa parentem in orbem, quodam opere topiario. Intra sepem eam, aestivant pastores, opacam, pariter, et munitam vallo arboris, decora specie subter intuenti, proculve fornicato ambitu. Superiores ejus rami in excelsum emicant, silvosa multitudine, vasto matris corpore, ut lx. p. pleraeque orbe colligant, umbra vero bina stadia operiant. Foliorum latitudo peltae effigiem Amazonicae habet: ea causa fructum integens, crescere prohibet. Rarusque est, nec fabae magitudinem excedens; sed per folia solibus coctus proedulci sapore, dignus miraculo arboris". He concludes with saying, that it was found chiefly about the Acesines, the modern Jenaub, which falling into the famous Hydaspes, the Behut, proves its growth in those days, at least as far north as lat. 30° 30'. It did not escape the notice of Alexander the Great, who, after his defeat of Porus, admired it on his march to farther slaughters. After the fine description given by the Roman naturalist, I shall not injure Quintus Curtius, by transcribing, from Book ix. ch. 1, the very few inferior lines he has written on the subject.

It is now discovered to the very south of India, and spreads through many of the islands, even to the Moluccas. They are frequently planted in market places, and are therefore called, Waringen daun Bazaar; their extensive shade proving very grateful to all who frequent those spots of business. The Portuguese, from its multitude of roots, style it *Arbor de raix*. It is by the English usually called the Banyans tree, or more properly the Yogey tree, being that under the shade of which the religious of that sect usually practise their senseless austerities. Pliny, lib. vii. c. 2 describes them under the name of *Gymnosophistae*. Philosophos eorum, quos Gymnosophistas vocant ab exortu ad occasum praestare, contuentes solem immobilibus oculis: ferventibus harenis toto die alternis pedibus insistere. Others again have supposed this tree to have been the tree of life, and to have furnished the leaves with which our first parents betrayed their sense of shame after the fall. Milton adopts the last opinion and gives us the following beautiful version of the Latin naturalist:—

Soon they chose
 The fig tree, not the kind for fruit renown'd,
 But such as at this day to Indians known,
 In Malabar or Decan spreads her arms,
 Branching so broad and long, that in the ground
 The bending twigs take root, and daughters grow
 About the mother; a pillar'd shade,
 High over-arch'd, and echoing walks between:
 There oft the Indian herdsman, shunning heat,
 Shelters in cool, and tends his pasturing herds
 At loop-holes cut through thickest shade.

Authors who have treated, or given figures of this magnificent tree, are Rheede, in his *Hortus Malabaricus*, iii. p. 85, tab. lxiii; Rumphius, in vol. iii. p. 127. Tab. lxxiv; Boullaye de Gouz, at p. 194; Linschoten, in his curious travels, at p. 68, and Catesby, in his History of Carolina, iii. p. 18, and Tab. xviii. Mr. Hodge's Travels. Tab. p. 27. Finally, I may mention the figures in Clusius's Exotics p. 2, and that in Gerard, p. 1512, (copied from the former) but must observe that both seem more regular than nature will admit.

(To be Continued).

GENEALOGY OF THE REIMERS FAMILY OF CEYLON.

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

I.

Nicolaas Reimers of Weitswoort, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 20th February 1774, Maria Isabella Wendelboe, baptised 25th May 1760, daughter of Nicolaas Magnus Wendelboe, Boekhouder, and Haybe D'hames. He had by her:—

- 1 Christiaan Frederick, who follows under II.

II.

Christiaan Frederick Reimers, Surveyor, born 1778, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal 25th April 1802, Catharina Arnoldina Van Cuylenburg born 1st March 1779, daughter of Petrus Henricus Van Cuylenburg and Anna Louisa Pardoën. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. VII, pages 79 and 80). He had by her:—

- 1 Johannes Wilhelmus, who follows under III.
- 2 Frederica Carolina, baptised 21st July 1805, died young.
- 3 Henrietta Elisabeth, baptised 19th October 1806, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 24th September 1821, Gualterus Petrus Camp, baptised 28th January 1798, son of Johannes Camp and Susanna Margarsta Von Hagt. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. IX, page 128).
- 4 Hermelina Eliza, baptised 10th July 1808, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 29th January 1833, William Blevin.
- 5 Louisa Wilhelmina, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 11th December 1833, Henricus Cornelis Jonklaas,

baptised 15th July 1813, died 27th March 1914, son of Johannes Frederick Jonklaas and Catharina Henrietta Camp. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, pages 204 and 205).

- 6 Johan George, who follows under IV.

III.

Johannes Wilhelmus Reimers, baptised 3rd July 1803, died 1861, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 3rd September 1824, Petronella Wilhelmina Vander Straaten, baptised 3rd September 1804, daughter of Pieter Engelbert Vander Straaten and Anna Catharina Weyman. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, page 158). He had by her:—

- 1 Charlotte Margaret, born 1825, married 1853, Henry Fervand Stephen.
- 2 Eugenia Rosaline, married 31st July 1857, Peter Frederick Ebert, born 26th January 1824, son of Ryeloff Johannes Ebert and Isabella Maria. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 77).
- 3 Frederica Gerardina, born 6th February. 1829.

IV.

Johan George Reimers, Surveyor, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal:—

- (a) 17th December 1832, Carolina Gertruida Van Cuylenburg, born 28th September 1815, daughter of Wilhelmus Philippus Van Cuylenburg and Gertruida Elizabeth Sperling (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. VII, page 79).
- (b) Henrietta Gertruida Smith, born 11th March 1819, daughter of Michiel Coenraad Smith of Tutucorin and Maria Catharina Jansz.

Of the first marriage, he had:—

- 1 Frederica Wilhelmina, born 5th November 1833.

Of the second marriage, he had:—

- 2 Maria Elizabeth, born 3rd October 1835, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 11th November 1850, Coenraad Benjamin Kelaart, Proctor, born 15th October 1826, died 18th August 1873, son of Samuel Kelaart and Frederica Bernardina Schneider.
- 3 Cornelia Gerardina, born 20th June 1837, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 11th December 1854, Henry Daniel Anthonisz, son of Johannes Christianus Anthonisz and Gerardina Philipina de Vos. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. XXVII, page 134).
- 4 Maria Frederika, born 22nd September 1839.
- 5 Georgiana Ephrasia Maria, born, 4th May 1841, married in the Dutch Reformed Church Wolvendaal, 20th March 1857, William Arnold Jansz, born 16th June 1837, son of Henry Albert Jansz, and Charlotta Dorothea Hoffman.
- 6 Edmund Blevin, who follows under V.
- 7 John Henry, who follows under VI.
- 8 Alfred Edward, who follows under VII.

V.

Edmund Blevin Reimers, Proctor, born 1st March 1844, died 20th January 1881, married in Christ Church Kurunegalle, 18th November 1868, Mercia Ondaatje, born 24th September 1847, died 18th January 1929, daughter of Frederick Ondaatje and Johanna Christina Louisa Heyzer. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVI, page 26). He had by her:—

- 1 Frances Elva, born 14th November 1869, died 26th February 1941, married:—
 - (a) In Christ Church, Cathedral, Colombo, Charles Edward Jayetileke, died 6th November 1894.
 - (b) In Holy Trinity Church Nuwara Eliya 18th October 1900, William Gilbert Felsing, born 22nd August 1868, died 28th August 1936, son of Gilbert Felsing and Paulina Maria Toussaint. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IV, page 86 and Vol. XXVIII, page 180.)
- 2 Mildred Ethel, born 12th January 1871, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya, 11th November 1892, Aelian Armstrong King Bartholomeusz, died 22nd April 1932, son of John William Francis Bartholomeusz and Jane Maria von Bergheim.
- 3 Harold Edmund, who follows under VIII.
- 4 Beatrice Edna, born 25th October 1874, died at Ealing in London 1st October 1941, married in St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 24th February 1895, Alexander Frederick Staples, son of Francis Theodore Staples, Proctor, and Eliza Sophia VanderStraaten. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, page 164).
- 5 Bertha Euphemia, born 1st May 1876 died 6th October 1939, married:—
 - (a) In Holy Trinity Church, Nuwara Eliya, 21st December 1907, Rajah Muttiah.
 - (b) In St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya, 3rd November 1913, Henry Francis Ondaatje, born 18th November 1882, son of Nathaniel Francis Ondaatje, Proctor, and Clara Louisa Ephraums. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 106).
- 6 Roy Edmund, who follows under IX

VI.

John Henry Reimers, born 20th January 1847, died 1911, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 21st April 1870. Caroline Elizabeth Spaar, born 16th December 1849, died 26th January 1909, daughter of John William Spaar and Maria Cecilia Andree. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. X, page 14, and Vol. XXV, page 122). He had by her:—

- 1 Constance Evelyn, born 26th June 1871, died 18th June 1892.
- 2 Caroline Maud, born 16th December 1872, married in St. Paul's Church, Kandy, 21st November 1892, William Algernon Weinman, Station Master, Ceylon Government Railway, born 8th October 1869, died 15th June 1922, son of John George Weinman and Elizabeth Julia Wolff.
- 3 Mabel Beatrice, born 7th May 1875.
- 4 Eleanor Blanche, born 9th November 1876, died 26th May 1903, married in the Methodist Church, Hatton, 10th September 1901, David Edwards.

- 5 Henry Marshall, born 25th March 1878, married and settled in Bangkok.
- 6 George William Percival, who follows under X.
- 7 Nora Vivian, born 2nd October 1881, died in September 1882.
- 8 Alma Edith Rose, born 7th April 1883, died in October 1909.
- 9 Leslie Vere Clifford, born 5th May 1889, died at Basra in April 1916.

VII.

Alfred Edward Reimers, Postmaster, born 15th August 1849, died 5th November 1931, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolven-daal, 10th February 1875, Matilda Winifred Steinholster, born 20th July 1859, died 12th June 1934, daughter of Charles Peter Steinholster and Lodewina Catharina Thielman. He had by her:—

- 1 Charles Annesley, who follows under XI.
- 2 Lawrence Percival, born 18th December 1876, died young.
- 3 Arthur Hannibal, born 30th May 1878, died young.
- 4 Colin Lancelot, who follows under XII.
- 5 Claude Huband, born 13th August 1883, died 1st January 1938.
- 6 Daisy Irene Elaine, born 18th November 1884, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 11th November 1909, Eric Constant Misso, born 11th November 1887, son of Emiliani Caesar Joseph, Misso and Auralia Gertrude Scharenguivel. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. XXV, page 15, and Vol. XXIX, pages 65 and 73).
- 7 Viola Aileen, born 6th February 1886, married in All Saints' Church, Agra Patna, 2nd April 1902, James William Maxworth.
- 8 Ruby Arlene, born 16th September 1890, married in St. Andrew's Church, Gampola, 27th December 1911, James Charles Stanley Misso, born 18th January 1889, son of Emiliani Caesar Joseph Misso and Auralia Gertrude Scharenguivel. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. XXV, page 15, and Vol. XXIX, pages 65 and 73).
- 9 Alfred Hilton, who follows under XIII.

VIII

Harold Edmund Reimers, born 27th October 1872, died 16th November 1932, married in St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 31st December 1894, Eugenie Alfrida Felsing, born 30th November 1875, daughter of Michael Alfred Felsing and Emma Sophia Godlieb. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVII, page 126). He had by her:—

- 1 Harold Eric, who follows under XIV.
- 2 Dulcie Blanche, born 9th July 1897, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya, 27th December 1920, Norbert Benjamin Pereira.
- 3 Carl Edmund, born 7th September 1899, died 30th September 1900.
- 4 Noel Evelyn, born 1st February 1901, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya, 9th November 1935, Sheila Kathleen Beatrice Fryer.

- 5 Neta Edith, born 3rd September 1902, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 22nd June 1922, Henry Clement Siegerts, born 30th September 1895, son of Edgar Clement Siegerts and Maria Winifred de Niese.
- 6 Mona, born 24th February 1904.
- 7 Hugh Edgar, born 10th December 1906, married Nora Dias.
- 8 Ruth Esme, born 17th March 1908, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 26th December 1931, Wilfred Lovell Siegerts, son of Edgar Clement Siegerts and Maria Winifred de Niese.
- 9 Clegg Ellisley, born 27th November 1909.
- 10 Lyle Edward, born 11th April 1911.
- 11 Iris Naomi, born 10th October 1914, married Reynier Raux.
- 12 Bertha Erin, born 4th November 1916, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 28th December 1932, Robert George Spencer de Vos, born 20th May 1909, son of Robert Vincent de Vos and Mary Elizabeth Beling.
- 13 Ruby Edna, born 26th November 1919.

IX

Roy Edmund Reimers, M.B.E., Government Archivist, born 30th January 1881, married in St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 12th October 1910, Ruth Ondaatje, born 18th September 1884, daughter of Ebenezer Frank Ondaatje, C.C.S., and Alice Mary Pate. He had by her:—

- 1 Helen Edith, born 7th August 1912, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 17th December 1941, Harold Leslie Heyzer, 2nd Lieutenant in the Ceylon Engineers, C.D.F., born 26th October, 1910, son of Julian Cecil McCarthy Heyzer, Headmaster, English School, Segamat, Johore, and Claribel Maud Pate. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVI, page 28).
- 2 Ruth Elva, born 26th February 1914.
- 3 Frank Edmund, born 10th July 1915, died 2nd May 1936.
- 4 Roy Edmund, who follows under XV.
- 5 Maud Enid, born 5th November 1919.
- 6 Johannes Edmund, born 20th May 1922.
- 7 Lydia Evelyn, born 5th May 1924.

X

George William Percival Reimers, born 20th September 1879, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 1st June 1904, Hilda Blanche Elaine Kriekenbeek, born 25th January 1884, died 1st October 1940, daughter of Thomas Henry Kriekenbeek and Elizabeth Kriekenbeek. He had by her:—

- 1 Daphne Persis Iola, born 6th May 1905, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 9th July 1927, Sydney Lionel Bogaars, born 30th October 1897, son of Edwin Osmund Bogaars and Catherine Woth.

XI

Charles Annesley Reimers, Chief Clerk, Admiralty Office, Trincomalee, born 13th August 1875, died 13th April 1929, married in St.

Paul's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 10th February 1900, Ethel Grace Grenier, born 7th December 1879, daughter of Frederick Edward Grenier and Mary Anne Amelia Redlich. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 64). He had by her:—

- 1 Ethel Beryl, born 30th October 1900, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 27th December 1927, Bertram Evan Pereira, born 15th February 1902, son of Oliver Rowland Pereira, L.M.S. (Ceylon), and Emily Anne Walker.
- 2 Lettice Tuna, born 15th February 1902, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 28th December 1931, Bertram Lawrence Alvis, born 22nd May 1894, son of Francis Albert Alvis and Ellen Alice Thomasz.
- 3 Annesley Grenier, born 22nd September 1903.
- 4 Alfred Edward Grenier, who follows under XVI.
- 5 Karl Kingsley Grenier, who follows under XVII.
- 6 Earl Lancelot Grenier, born 19th June 1910.
- 7 Trissette Ruth Grenier born 10th January 1913, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 26th December 1934, Dodwell Edward Baptist, born 19th May 1906, son of Edward Charles Baptist and Juliet Constance Pereira.
- 8 Harold Bertram Grenier
- 9 William Annesley Grenier } born 13th June 1917.

XII

Colin Lancelot Reimers, born 5th April 1882, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 4th April 1904, Louise Georgiet Hardy-Harris, born 22nd April 1884, daughter of Joseph Jasper Hardy-Harris and Maria Keyt. He had by her:—

- 1 Zita Beanche, born 19th June 1905, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 28th December 1925, George Ernest Misso, born 12th March 1896, son of Aloysius Eritus (Eloy) Misso and Eugenie Augusta Andree. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIX, pages 66 and 74).
- 2 Norma Iris, born 12th February 1907.
- 3 Mabel Hyacinth, born 2nd September 1908, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 11th December 1937, Eustace Elroy Hartley Anderson, born 21st September 1913, son of Robert Roy Anderson and Millicent Teresa Parys.
- 4 Louise Daphne Noelle, born 24th November 1910, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Dehiwala, 4th June 1932, Colin Budd Bulner, born 15th January 1908, son of Willisford Abram Bulner and Mildred Agnes Jansze.
- 5 Colin Steinhulster who follows under XVIII.
- 6 Sybil Inez Therese, born 25th October 1919, married in St. Mary's Church Bambalapitiya, 2nd January 1943, Vernon Lindsay Clair Ernst, born 10th December 1917, son of Hugh Victor Ernst and Erin Vera Vollenhoven. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, pages 92 and 94).

XIII

Alfred Hilton Reimers, born 15th July 1892, died 21st May 1921, married in St. Thomas' Church, Matara, 12th June 1918, Alma Enid

Buultjens, born 26th June 1899, died 5th March 1921, daughter of James Alfred Ernst Buultjens, B.A. (Cantab), Advocate, and Sylvia Blanche Kellar nee Andree, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 16, and Vol. XXX, page 28). He had by her:—

- 1 Phyllis Mayleen Enid, born 8th May 1920, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 17th December 1939, Trilby Noel Reimers Misso, Proctor, born 8th June 1916, son of James Charles Stanley Misso and Ruby Arlene Reimers. (vide VII, 8, supra, and D. B. U. Journal, Vol. XXIX, page 73).

XIV

Harold Eric Reimers, born 25th October 1895, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Regent Street, Colombo, 15th February 1922, Hazel Violet de Neys, born 24th July 1895, daughter of Henry William de Neys and Rose Marianne de Jong. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. IX, page 126). He had by her:—

- 1 Ronald Eric, born 31st December 1922.
- 2 Frederick Harold, born 3rd February 1924.
- 3 Karl Henry, born 19th June 1925.
- 4 Arthur Leslie, born 20th January 1928.
- 5 Doris Violet, born 15th January 1929.

XV

Roy Edmund Reimers, 2nd Lieutenant in the Ceylon Light Infantry, C. D. F., born 19th April 1917, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 25th April 1942, Stephanie Cecile Raffel, born 29th September 1922, daughter of Percival Christopher Raffel and Mary Maud de Kretser. He had by her:—

- 1 Michael Glenn, born 4th April 1943.

XVI

Alfred Edward Grenier Reimers, born 20th August 1905, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 28th December 1932, Christobel Marguerite Viola Siebel, born 10th January 1913, daughter of Stanley Vernon Clout Siebel and Violet Clarice Kriekenbeek. He had by her:—

- 1 Angela Yolande Christobel born 5th December 1933.
- 2 Herman Alastair, born 21st September 1936.
- 3 Aubrey Errol, born 17th January 1938.

XVII

Karl Kingsley Grenier Reimers, born 30th November 1907, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 9th June 1938, Erin Rose Balmond, born 20th August 1914, daughter of Hugh John Arnold Balmond and Victorine van Cuylenburg. He had by her:—

- 1 Charmaine Maureen, born 26th March 1939.
- 2 Erin Heather, born 7th October 1940.

XVIII

Colin Steinholster Reimers, born 18th April 1914, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Regent Street, Colombo, 16th April 1936, Thelma Ruby Ross, born 5th August 1919, daughter of Charles Leslie Ross and Nita Hope de Zylva. He had by her:—

- 1 Shirley Mignonne Serita, born 2nd July 1936.
- 2 Patricia Marie Louise, born 10th November 1937.
- 3 Alfred Colin Harris, born 9th February 1939.

Notes:—(1) Nicolaas Magnus Wendelboe, referred to under I, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal:—

- (a) 13th May 1759, Haybe D'hames.
- (b) 26th May 1771, Gertruyda Jefsers.

- (2) Henrietta Gertruyda Reimers nee Smith, referred to under IV, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 20th October 1853, Hendrik Bartholomeus Metzeling, widower of Wilhelmina Cornelia Schokman. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. XXV, page 105).
- (3) Frederick Ondaatje, referred to under V, was born on 19th July 1813. His parents were Gabriel Jurgen Ondaatje, died 4th February 1843, and Johanna Henrietta de Bruyn, born 22nd February 1794, who married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, on 2nd October 1808.
- (4) The appointment in 1934 of Roy Edmund Reimers, referred to under IX, to be a Member of the British Empire is not the first civil decoration conferred on him. In 1927 he received the Medal of the Royal Order of Cambodia. In 1933 he was offered a decoration from Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands, who desired to create him an Officer of the Order of Oranje Nassau but as the regulations governing the Colonial Service did not permit Officers in Government employment to accept a distinction of this nature Mr. Reimers declined the honour.

LEAVES FROM MY DIARY.*

Evacuation from Singapore.

BY AGNES M. PAULUSZ.

(Continued from our last issue.)

From the date of the bombing of Singapore by the Japanese, i.e. 8th December 1941, up to the day of our evacuation i.e. 6th February 1942, my brother Hugh had been applying to the various steamer agents for passages for his wife (Edna) daughter (Phinie), himself and me to leave Singapore for Colombo, but he had been put off with the excuse that there were no sailings, though to our own knowledge several steamers left for Colombo and other destinations taking away evacuees.

The situation regarding the evacuation of Singapore by the people who were not in any essential service was getting so grave that two Indian gentlemen of Singapore, namely, a lawyer and a merchant, interviewed the Governor, Sir Shenton Thomas, on behalf of the non-European British subjects in Malaya who were anxious to evacuate, and obtained a guarantee from him that 90% of the accommodation on three boats in the harbour intended for use as

*Passed by Press Censor.

evacuee boats would be allotted to Indians, Ceylonese and other non-European British subjects.

February 6th. At mid-day to-day Hugh phoned to me from his office, "Tell Edna to be ready to go on board to-night." At the moment he was speaking, the siren sounded the "alert," and the conversation was broken off. On receiving this message, Edna and I, in a state of feverish excitement, started to pack our suit-cases and trunks.

When Hugh returned from his office he told us that he was assured that accommodation was available for us on a boat sailing that night, and that each adult would be allowed two suit-cases and a child one. The problem then was as to what we should bring away. We, naturally, packed up our most valuable and useful clothes and other belongings. Hugh arranged with his brother-in-law to take some of us and part of the luggage in his car, and the others with the rest of the luggage were to go in Hugh's car. He was informed that we had to proceed to a spot opposite the Municipal building at 8 p.m. to get instructions as to how we should embark. When the time arrived, we left our home in Barker Road, having bade a very sad farewell to our faithful and loyal Chinese servants, leaving the house with everything in it in their charge.

Our experience when making for the Municipal building was in itself a nightmare! What with the traffic jam, the tooting of hundreds of motor horns, the shouting of orders by policemen, and the blowing of their whistles in the utter darkness, it was terrible! We were held up opposite the Municipal building for nearly 2 hours!

At last we were told to proceed to the wharf where "Vessel D", our boat, was berthed, but we were not told by which gate we were to enter the wharf premises. The cars proceeded inch-by-inch on low gear all the way. After an age, as it seemed to me, we reached the gate leading to the P. & O. wharf. We had gone only a few yards within the wharf premises, when all cars were ordered to halt by some Police Officer, who rushed in and out amongst the cars shouting in a stentorian voice, "All passengers for the evacuee boats get out of your cars, take whatever you can carry, and get on board as quickly as possible as the boats will leave in 10 minutes. Those who cannot make it will be left behind." It is impossible for me to describe the confusion and pandemonium that followed!

Poor little Phinie who had fallen fast asleep on Edna's lap had to be awakened and made to walk. Hugh, Edna and I grabbed whatever luggage we could carry and got into the swirl of the yelling panic-stricken crowd composed of men, women and children. Hugh and Edna walked ahead of me with Phinie clinging on to her mother's frock. It was wonderful how the child—not yet 3 years of age—went through all this crush and confusion in the darkness without a complaint or murmur. She must have felt too terrified to utter a sound.

The strain of the nerve-racking experiences I had been through during the past two months, added to the weight of the load I was carrying, made me feel so exhausted that I stumbled and fell many times. Just at this time I could hear the wail of the siren above the noise and confusion round about me. The way to the wharf seemed unending. As we approached the boat the crush and commotion was so great that we got separated, and had to keep calling to each other to know where we were. Fortunately, there was a light at the foot of the gang-way, and as I approached it, a soldier seeing me in difficulties kindly helped me on to the gang-way. I begged of him to help Edna and Phinie also on to the boat which he willingly did. Hugh and Edna with Phinie followed me up the gang-way, all the while calling to me, "Aggie, keep up, you have only a little way more to go." I shouted back, "I will," and as I got on to the deck I almost collapsed. As soon as Hugh, Edna and Phinie got on board we grouped together around the luggage we had carried up. Hugh then went off to the Purser's office, and after, a while he and a friend came and led us to our cabin. It was through the kindness and consideration of the Indian lawyer that we were fortunate enough to obtain a cabin, for, on our embarkation pass he had endorsed the word "cabin." But for this we would have had to travel as deck passengers like most of the others. Having settled us in our cabin, Hugh tried to meet his brother-in-law and his driver who were to carry our luggage from the cars on to the boat. After a time he returned with the news that he could not find either of them and that he could not spot any of our luggage. Later on, amongst the mass of luggage that had been dumped on the deck by the gang-way, Hugh and Edna discovered three of their suit cases which Edna's brother and Hugh's driver had managed to get on to the boat. Unfortunately for me, neither of my suit-cases could be brought on board, and I was left with only a small attache case into which I had, amongst other things, crammed a couple of frocks; all the rest of our luggage was left behind! We made every effort to meet Edna's brother, to say goodbye to him, but owing to the darkness and confusion, this was impossible.

By Steamer.

It was near midnight when the boat moved off, and the raid was still on, the boat's Ack-Ack guns were booming, but despite this, being in a state of complete exhaustion, I retired to the cabin and slept that night much better than I had slept for the past two months, as I felt thankful that we were at last leaving that inferno—Singapore!

February 7th. On going on deck this morning I discovered that the three evacuee boats were being escorted by three destroyers and a troopship. This made me feel quite confident that we would reach our destination safely.

To-day at 1-15 p.m. while we were at lunch, we heard the ship's alert; an air-raid was on! From that moment till the "all-clear" was sounded I kept praying silently that we may get away, without any damage. Two of our Ack-Ack guns got into action and having

fired a shot each brought down two Japanese planes. All passengers infants included, had to carry their life-belts with them wherever they went, as notices were prominent on all parts of the boat insisting on this. After a full hour the "all-clear" was sounded. Until then all passengers were ordered to squat on the floors of the corridors of the lower decks wearing their life-belts. On the "all-clear" there were many cries of "Thank God!" I will not attempt to describe my feelings at the time the raid was on. An air-raid on land is terrible enough, but a raid when one is at sea is beyond description! I am thankful and grateful that our guns were able to drive off the Japanese planes. I pray that they may not come again.

February 8th. We spent a quiet and peaceful night though we were in great danger. This morning too everything seemed quiet and calm, but we are still in the danger-zone.

February 9th. We had a peaceful and quiet night. Before retiring we sat in the saloon chatting, and no passengers were allowed to be out on deck, the lights there having been totally blacked-out. We noticed a British plane hovering above us as if to protect us—this gave us a feeling of greater security. We had life-boat drill this morning.

February 10th. All's well and peaceful. The clocks were put back 60 minutes at midnight last night. Our escort left us to-day.

February 11th. to 14th. Peaceful quiet and uneventful.

February 15th. We passed a solitary steamer at about 4 o'clock this afternoon, going, as it seemed to me, in the direction of the Nederland East Indies. On leaving Singapore the course our boats took was south-east towards Java and then due south, through the Sunda Strait, the Japanese having taken control of the straits of Malacca. In the ship's radio news we read the distressing announcement that Singapore was in flames—"a hell of fire"! I am so very sorry for all those we left behind and who were not able to get away.

February 16th. I spent a very miserable night as I kept thinking of all my friends and others left behind in Singapore. The news came through to-day that Singapore had capitulated last night. What will be the fate of those unfortunates! I was just told by the Cabin Steward (12 noon) that we are due to arrive at Bombay sometime to-morrow. This was the first intimation we had of our destination as the Ship's Officers had been telling us that even they did not know what our destination would be till we neared a port, and that until then we would still be in the danger zone. Up to this time our boats had been taking a zig-zag course from the moment we passed through the Sunda Strait which lies between Sumatra and Java—this we were told was a precaution against attack by Japanese submarines.

February 17th. At dawn to-day we all rushed on deck with feelings of joy and relief at seeing land—and our destination—after a long, hazardous and anxious voyage which to me seemed an eternity.

The news went round that we were to be ready to land at Bombay at 10-30 this morning, but later on we were informed that we could land to-morrow. This afternoon all the passengers signed a joint letter addressed to the Captain and officers of the S. S. "Devonshire", our boat, thanking them for bringing us safely into port through such a perilous voyage, and for the care, attention and consideration they gave us during the voyage.

February 18th. To-day we had another disappointment as we are not allowed to land. Our landing has been postponed till to-morrow.

By Train.

February 19th. After all the luggage had been taken off the boat here (Bombay) we had to get it passed by the Customs authorities. After this, the Bombay Evacuee Committee met the passengers and arranged for their conveyance to Victoria Station, where those bound for Ceylon were to take train for Madras. On our arrival at Victoria Station, however, we realised that the conditions under which we were to travel to Colombo via Madras were so inconvenient and uncomfortable, that we along with a few other evacuees detached ourselves from the care of the Bombay Evacuee Committee and travelled as ordinary passengers, having made reservations through Messrs. Thos. Cook and Sons.

The train left for Madras at 8 p. m. and after a wearisome and uninteresting journey we arrived here (Madras) this morning.

February 21st. At Madras.

February 22nd. Our train left Madras for Dhanaskodi at 8 p. m. last night arriving here this morning. All passengers, with their luggage had to go through the formalities required by the Immigration and Quarantine authorities prior to embarking on the ferry launch where our luggage was examined by the Customs Officers. At Talaimannar we settled down in the compartment which had been reserved for us. After a good sleep and rest we arrived at the Fort Station the next morning (23rd), and were met by some of our relatives and taken home by them. Thus ended a miserable, anxious and nerve-racking experience. Several Colombo residents who had anxiously awaited the arrival of the evacuee train made inquiries about their relatives, but unfortunately, in a number of cases, we were not able to give them any news.

CATALOGUE OF THE DUTCH ARCHIVES

Miss M. W. Jurriaanse, who has now left Ceylon, has well justified her appointment as temporary Assistant Archivist by the publication of this thick quarto volume* of 354 pages. The first 32 pages form an Introduction, summarizing the events which led to the occupation of the coastal districts of Ceylon, and giving a detailed

*Catalogue of the Archives of the Dutch Central Government of Coastal Ceylon 1640-1796, by M. W. Jurriaanse, Colombo 1943.

outline of the administrative system adopted by the new settlers. Some of this information may indeed be found elsewhere, in books of history or travel, and in occasional magazine articles. It is an advantage, however, to have this formal and authentic outline of the whole subject by one who has made a careful study of it. A Bibliography and an Index usefully complete the book, which admirably supplements Mr. R. G. Anthonisz's "Report on the Dutch Records."

We need not here go over the well trodden path of historical narrative. It would be more helpful to see what Miss Jurriaanse adds to our knowledge or clears up what is imperfectly understood. *Patria*, she tells us, means "the home government of the V.O.C." *Meester*, abbreviated into *Mr.*, is a Dutch title given to "a law scholar", possibly one who has taken a degree in Law, or a member of the legal profession. In Ceylon we have somehow associated the term with a medical man. *Politieke Raad* is not exactly what we understand by a "Political Council". "It can more accurately be styled 'Council of Polity', in accordance with Governor Van Imhoff's definition of that word: 'Polity is not craftiness, nor statesmanship as interpreted by many who fail to grasp the full value of the words they use and confound it with politics. Much rather is it that civic prudence, strengthened by executive authority, which can maintain in good order everything that makes communal life advantageous, easy and agreeable'. Therefore the simple word 'Council' is more expressive of its function to the modern mind than the term 'Political Council'."

Residents in the Indian Native States are political agents of the British Government; but the Dutch term *residenten* corresponds to our Government Agents in Ceylon. A *Versave* was a European officer entrusted with an office which was of Sinhalese origin, which has no equivalent in other parts of the Company's territory." *Soldaten bij de pen* (soldiers of the pen) began as clerks, and might rise to assistant, sworn clerk, and full sworn clerk.

The Dutch were scrupulously careful to preserve records of any official importance or historical value. A list, dated 1785, of the documents and furniture in the Secretariat in Colombo, was completed by J. W. Billing, and may now be found in our Archives. When the British took over in 1796, a study of the Dutch Records was found necessary to investigate the fiscal resources that were available to the Dutch. An official custodian of the Records was appointed in 1798; he was no other than Mr. Hugh Cleghorn, Chief Secretary to the Government, who thus became "the first British keeper of the records in this Island. Then came Albert Henry Giesler (1803), Philip Fretz, R. Morgan, George Lee ("a civil servant who was unusually conversant with foreign languages and especially with Dutch"), and A. H. de Heer. The list does not appear to be complete, or the records may have fallen into neglect—a neglect leading to that disappearance of records to which Sir Emerson

Tennent pointedly refers, and of which Mr. R. G. Anthonisz gives fuller details. We are glad to see that Miss Jurriaanse gives Mr. Anthonisz some of the credit due to him for his work as Archivist and Librarian.

The Catalogue is appropriately divided under separate heads:—the Central Government and its several Departments; its Officers; Local Boards; the administration of Justice; the Secret Committee, &c. A reader will miss much of value and interest if he is content with a study of the Introduction alone. Every section is carefully introduced and comments are made throughout, whenever an explanation is thought to be necessary. We hear now and again of *Plakaats*—proclamations, publications, and orders. "Dutch publications of this type", we are told, "are called plakaten"; which means 'affixed notices'. They were pasted up at public buildings as they are at the present day. This may explain why comparatively few of them have survived."

The Catalogue confirms our knowledge of the Dutch interest in the maintenance and spread of religion in Ceylon, according to the teaching of the Dutch Reformed Church. But all creeds were allowed so long as they did not interfere with the established Church and Government. "Persecution as such was not in keeping with the proverbial Dutch spirit of tolerance." Roman Catholics were prohibited on political grounds chiefly, where they were "disloyal and provocative"; but officers of the Regiment de Luxemburg were severely punished for misbehaviour in the Buddhist temple at Kelaniya.

This book abounds with details of this kind which are of absorbing interest to the student of Dutch history. It is a "Catalogue", but one of the right sort, not a dry list of books and documents, but a list annotated and illuminated with explanations that really explain.

L. E. B.

(To be continued)

Notes of Events.

Summary of proceedings of the General Committee, 15th June, 1943:—The following new members were admitted:—Messrs. G. Vander Pas, M. Von Hatten, M. K. Roose, J. Quinten, B. F. Kolmus, J. M. Warnars, J. Bakker, F. V. Roosmalecoq, B. L. Berenger, W. A. Bartholomeusz, G. E. Mack, F. B. Anderson, and A. D. S. Bartholomeusz.

20th July, 1943:—(1) Votes of Condolence were passed on the deaths of Dr. G. A. Rode, Mr. C. E. Albrecht, and Mr. O. Schokman. (2) It was reported that the concert given by the junior Choral and Dramatic Group in aid of Social Service had brought in a nett profit of Rs. 155-75. (3) The Secretary reported that a sum of Rs. 1,175/- had been subscribed to the Education Fund. (4) The President tabled a letter from the Honorary Members offering to re-decorate the Union Hall. The offer was accepted with gratitude. (5) It was agreed that Mr. W. J. F. LaBrooy should be in charge of the Reference Library and prepare a catalogue of books and be responsible for their issue. Mr. LaBrooy was co-opted a member of the Reference Library Committee. (6) The following new members were elected:—Messrs. J. W. van Langenberg, E. T. D. Ephraums, R. D. Claessen, E. F. E. de Kretser, G. E. van Cuylenberg, Rev. B. de Kretser, Messrs. E. A. G. Koch, M. J. Morsdorf, Jan Bodar, C. J. van Zweiten, and J. G. Scheele. *Re enrolled:* Mr. Austin de Vos. (7) Tabled report of sub-Committee appointed to submit amendments to rules 4 and 6 (c). Agreed that the suggested amendments be brought up before the next Annual General Meeting for consideration.

17th August, 1943:—(1) It was decided to celebrate Founder's Day on 23rd October, 1943, and a programme was approved. A sum of Rs. 350 was voted out of Union funds to cover the cost of the function. (2) Approved report of Sub-Committee appointed to draft rules regarding the formation of outstation branches subject to the clarification of certain points. (3) It was reported that a Dramatic and Choral Group had been formed consisting of Mr. W. J. A. van Langenberg (Chairman), Mr. Gerald Ebell, (Secretary and Treasurer), Mrs. W. J. A. van Langenberg (Drama Organiser), Miss O. Rode (Choral Organiser), Mrs. Z. Martin, Mrs. W. R. B. Toussaint, and Mr. C. L. Beling. (4) It was reported that it had been agreed to hold joint meetings of the Social Service and Education Committees to prevent overlapping of functions and that arrangements had been made for an examination in Sinhalese in December. (5) It was agreed that the expenses of the Dance on 30th August should be met out of Union Funds, and a sum of Rs. 500 was voted for the purpose. (6) Read letter from the President asking the Union to accept from Mrs. de Kretser and himself the Crest and the work on the floor of the Reception Hall recently executed. Decided to accept the gift with thanks. (7) The following new members were elected:—Mrs. H. K. de Kretser, Messrs. J. van Dijk, W. Kolenbrander, J. C. Leenhouders, J. Huysers, W. van Schelt, Miss M. V. Altendorff, Mr. C. E. Bogaars, Mrs. Barbara Thomasz, Messrs. B. Gottschalk, B. W. Lefrandt, and C. R. Arndt. *Re-enrolled:* Mrs. L. M. Maartensz, Mr. N. D. V. Ferdinands, and Mr. Evan Koch.

— THE — DUTCH IN CEYLON

VOL. I.

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

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