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# MILLERS

# 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 and must reach the Editor at least a fortnight before publication of the Journal.

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## Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

VOL. XXXIII.]

APRIL, 1944.

[No. 4.]

### THE EBELL FAMILY OF CEYLON.

Now and again we are reminded of enterprising members of the Community who have left Ceylon, and have done good work in other lands. The names of Anthonisz, Kelaart, van Geyzel, Bartholomeusz, come at once to our minds. They were all Army Medical Men, and some record, inadequate though it may be, has appeared in the pages of this *Journal*. The names of Joseph, Modder and Beling represent more peaceful occupations it is with special pleasure that we add the name of Ebell to the honourable list, though it is not connected with the Army, or with Medicine, or the Church. Like the other names, this name too is still represented in Ceylon by members of the family.

The connection of the Ebell family with Ceylon dates from the 1760's, when Carl Frederick Ebell of Nieuwe-Rupin, Middlemark, was Chief of Mannar. By his second marriage he had a son, Adriaan Hendrik, whose son Hendricus Theodorus (Henry Theodore) married Maria Christina Gerhardina Palm, daughter of the Rev. J. D. Palm the elder, Predikant of the Dutch Reformed Church at Wolvendaal. Their son Adriaan Ebell is the subject of this article.

Adriaan Ebell was born in Ceylon on the 30th September 1840. His elder sister, Anna Henrietta Adriana,† married in 1844 the Rev. Henry Cherry an American Missionary, who probably belonged to the Madura Mission in India, or was on a visit to Ceylon. They returned to America taking with them the young Adriaan, and gave him a good education at Easthampton and Yale University and later in German Universities. As he is referred to later as Dr. Ebell, it is clear that his progress in learning was out of the ordinary. Unfortunately, however, he died at the early age of 37, that is about the year 1877.

But during that short period he was able to prove of great service to others. He died "after seeing the ideal conceived in boyhood well on the way towards realization". What that ideal was, and how it was realized, may best be explained by an extract from a Year-Book of one of the Clubs he founded:—

† D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXX, page 11.

## "I will find a way or make one"

(Dr. Adrian Ebell's Chosen Motto)

Every member of EBELL should be able to answer with certainty the question, often repeated within and outside the Club membership, Why are we called 'Ebell'?

Adrian Ebell, born September 30th, 1840, in Ceylon, of mixed German-British-Dutch ancestry; brought to America while very young by an older sister who had married an American missionary, gaining his education at Easthampton and Yale, and later, at German Universities; dying at the age of thirty-seven, after seeing the ideal conceived in boyhood well on the way towards realization; may be regarded as an international figure.

Always deeply interested in a wider horizon for women everywhere, through the extension of opportunities for higher education in all lines tending to the enlarged sympathy that results from the assimilation of broad culture when pursued with the ultimate motive of unselfish service, Dr. Ebell initiated the organisation of study classes for women in the eastern part of our country and, after a visit to California, was returning to Europe to further his plans for an international college for women, when he was stricken with fever that resulted in his death.

Such was the man to whose memory the Ebell Clubs of California—among which the Ebell of Los Angeles is third in order of organisation—chose to build living monuments by taking his name and carrying on his work through the education of women. May we perform the task worthily and prove loyal to our chosen legend, 'I serve'.

Dr. Ebell's own motto was, as we have seen, "I will find a way or make one,"—a stimulating motto for us in these days when so many would rather wait till someone else found a way for them and coaxed them along it.

Further information about the Ebell Clubs would be welcome—how many they are in number and how they are organized and worked. Meanwhile, we may regard with not unworthy pride the true Service rendered by a country-man in a land so distant from our own.

L. E. B.

## AN ACCOUNT OF CEYLON

BY THOMAS PENNANT.

(Continued from page 46 of the issue for October 1943.)

That magnificent bird the peacock swarms in Ceylon. Its legs are much longer, and its tail of far greater length in its nature state, than they are with us. This most elegant and superb of the feathered creation, is confined (in the state of nature) to India, and adds highly to the beauty of the rich forests of that vast country, and some of its islands. It inhabits most parts of the continent, even as high as Lat. 31° 14' N. supposing it to be yet found on the Hydractes, the modern Ranwee.

It was imported from India into Greece, as Aelian says, by the barbarians, by which he must mean the natives of the country of that bird. A male and female were valued at Athens at a thousand drachmae, or £ 32. 5. 10. Samos possibly was the next place they were known at, where they were preserved about the temple of Juno, being birds sacred to that goddess: but their use was afterwards permitted to mortals, for Gellius, in his *Noctes Atticae*, c. 16, commends the excellency of the Samian peacocks.

But they were known in Judaea many years before the days of Alexander. The monarch, first in all human wisdom, and who shined pre-eminently in the knowledge of natural history, imported them in his Tharshish navies, which made a three years voyage to procure for Solomon the rich productions of the East, and the objects of the study he so fondly cultivated. There can be no doubt but that the birds imported were peacocks, not Aethiopian parrots, as has been conjectured, natives of a country nearly bordering on the very sea from which his navies took their departure. Apes, ebony, and spices might have been procured from Africa, on one hand, or Arabia on the other; but peacocks and precious (sic) stones, seem at all times the monopoly of India.

The Habren Koekella, or wood-fowl, *Ind. Zool.* tab. vii, second edition, is found near Colombo, but is not common. It is at once distinguished by its double spurs: in size it is equal to a common fowl.

Among the aquatic birds is the great white-headed Ibis, *Ind. Zool.* tab. xi, which makes a snapping noise with its bill; it loses its fine roseate colour in the rainy season. Allied to the wood curlew of the Arctic Zoology, ii, No. 360, a native of the Brasile, and southern parts of North America.

In the *Indian Zoology*, tab. xiii, xiv, are engraven the wild goose and duck of Ceylon; I refer to that work for their haunts and history.

The Anhinga, tab. xv, closes this brief ornithology. It is the terror of passengers; it lurks in thick bushes, by the water side, and darting out its long and slender neck, terrifies them with the idea of some serpent going to inflict a mortal wound.

I will not attempt to enumerate the fishes of Ceylon; there do not seem to be any that are local. It appears to me, that those of India spread from at least the parallel of Cape Comorin, over the vast sea that comprehends the space from thence to the Molucca isles, fills the Bay of Bengal, and surrounds the great isles which form the Indian Archipelago. In the course of this volume I shall point out those which, in form or colors, exhibit the most wonderful proofs of the operations of nature.

I shall here only mention the few which I received from Sir Joseph Banks and Mr. Loten, as authenticated species. The first is the tiger-shark, *Ind. Zool.* tab. xvi, fifteen feet long, finely marked with white bands on a dusky ground, said to feed on shells and crustacea.

A *Balistes*, the *Kangewena* of the Cingalese, with one horn on the forehead; it grows to the length of two feet, and is esteemed good eating.

*Balistes maculosus*, or *Pottoe-bora*, elegantly spotted, also a good fish; grows to the length of fifteen inches.

*Balistes truncatus*, seemingly cut in two, like our *Mola*.

A *Diodon*, a singular species, armed with short strong spines. The *Ikon Toetomba*, or boxfish of the Malaysians.

A very large species of sword-fish, (different from that described in the *Br. Zool.* iii. No. 68), is found in these and other of the Indian seas. There is a very fine specimen of it in the British Museum which is elegantly figured in Doctor Shaw's *Naturalist's Miscellany*, Vol. ii, tab. 88. It grows, as I have been informed, sometimes to the length of thirty feet: it is at perpetual enmity with the whole tribe; and a most dangerous enemy, for it will sink beneath those monstrous animals, and rising with great force, transfix them with its vast snout. There have been instances of its mistaking a ship for one of the cetaceous genus. An East India-man had its bottom pierced through by a sword-fish, and the weapon quite embedded to the very base in the timber. The fish was killed by the violence of the shock; but had it been able to withdraw the sword, the vessel probably must have sunk in consequence of the leak. The timber, with the weapon lodged in it, is preserved in the Museum, to authenticate the fact. This verifies the report of Pliny, lib. xxxii, c. 2, respecting the common sword-fish, in cases wholly similar. *Xiphiam, id est, Gladium, rostro mucronato esse: ab hoc navis perfossas mergi in oceano ad locum Mauritaniae, qui gotta vocetur, non procul Lixo flumine.* Oppian gives a true account of the *Xiphias*, in Book ii. L. 462, iii, 547. The last has a very entertaining description of the manner in which the ancient Massilians took these singular fishes.

A most elegant striped species of *Scorpaena*.

The *Echineis lineatus*, a new species; and finally the *Labrus Zeylanicus*, Ind. Zool. tab. xvi.

While I am in this element, I shall remark that the *Sepia Octopodia*, Br. Zool. iv. No. 44, grows in the Indian seas to a most amazing size. A friend of mine, long resident among the Indian isles, and a diligent observer of nature, informed me that the natives affirm, that some have been seen two fathoms broad over their centre, and that each arm was nine fathoms long. When the Indians navigate their little boats, they go in dread of them; and lest these animals should fling their arms over and sink them, they never fail without an ax (sic) to cut them off.

(To be Continued).

## GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF ALTENDORFF OF CEYLON.

(Compiled by the late Mr. F. H. de Vos, Barrister-at-Law, in 1918; revised and brought up to date by Mr. D. V. Altendorff in 1944.)

### I.

Marten Lodewyk Altendorff, born at Berlin, arrived in Ceylon in 1730 in the ship "Hogerswilde," (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. I, page 37) died at Kalutara in 1749, married Maria Jansz. He had by her:—

- 1 Johannes, who follows under II.
- 2 Laudinus, baptised at Kalutara, 23rd September 1744, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 23rd October 1768, Maria Jacobsz.
- 3 Philipina, baptised at Barbeyrn, 15th August 1746.
- 4 Sophia, baptised at Barbeyrn, 15th August 1746, married Karl Lodewyk Titmar.

### II.

Johannes Altendorff, Krankbezoeker, (Visitor of the Sick) at Matara, baptised at Kalutara, 8th February 1743, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara:—

- (a) 22nd May 1767, Adriana Dorothea Durven of Galle.
- (b) 8th December 1783, Maria Jacoba Bastiaansz of Matara, widow of Johannes Nicolaas Lasge, Boekhouder.
- (c) 8th February 1787, Johanna Margarita Leonora Beyer of Galle.

Of the first marriage, he had:—

- 1 Sigisbert Christiaan, baptised at Galle, 10th March 1770.
- 2 Lourens Petrus (Lawrence Peter) Assistant in the Dutch East India Company, later Chief Clerk of the Kachcheri at Tangalla, and subsequently Notary Public practising at Matara, baptised at Galle, 16th June 1771, died 28rd January 1843, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 29th November 1799, Maria Dorothea Ketelhack, widow of Lieutenant Jean Baptist Coint, born at Cochin, 8th July 1767, died at Tangalla, 15th April 1819.
- 3 Arent Marten, who follows under III.
- 4 Johanna Wilhelmina, baptised at Galle, 16th January 1778, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 1st December 1799, Johannes Vollenhoven, baptised at Galle, 13th March 1777, died 1st November 1818, son of Henricus Vollenhoven of Utrecht and Elizabeth Moorman, widow of Johan Momeyer. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, page 98).
- 5 Johannes, baptised at Galle, 23rd July 1780.

- 6 Daniel, baptised at Galle, 13th July 1783.  
Of the second marriage, there was no issue.  
Of the third marriage, he had :—
- 7 Johannes Casper, baptised at Galle, 19th July 1789.
- 8 Willem Ferdinand, who follows under IV.
- 9 Frederic Gerard, baptised at Galle, 22nd May 1794.
- 10 Gerard Johan, who follows under V.
- 11 Johanna Margarita, baptised at Galle, 13th October 1799.

## III.

Arent Marten Altendorff, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara :—

- (a) 20th August 1797, Johanna Frederika Bodemziek, baptised 2nd May 1778, daughter of Frederik Willem Bodemziek of Zegelhorst and Anna Cornelia Van Enden.
- (b) 9th May 1802, Anna Maria Vroom of Matara.  
Of the first marriage, he had :—
- 1 Sigisbertus Laurentius, baptised at Galle, 17th July 1796.
- 2 Arnoldina Catherina, baptised at Galle, 4th August 1798.
- 3 Agnesia Magdalena, baptised at Galle, 13th October 1799.  
Of the second marriage, he had :—
- 4 Justinus Ernestus, who follows under VI.
- 5 Frederica Catherina, baptised 1804, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Galle, 20th October 1832, Troyles Albertus Meusz.
- 6 Laudinus Matthias, born 9th January 1806.
- 7 Martina Dorothea, born 14th January 1809.
- 8 Anna Petronella Lourenzia, born 14th January 1811.

## IV.

Willem Ferdinand Altendorff, baptised at Galle, 1st December 1793, married Johanna Maria Swartz, daughter of Harmen Frederik Swartz of Leuwaarden, Pilot at Galle, and Johanna Catherina de Zilwa. He had by her :—

- 1 Arnoldus Cornelius Fredericus, born 4th May 1819.
- 2 Rudolphus Cornelis Balthazar, born 9th September 1820.
- 3 Johan Frederic Henry, born 21st December 1821.
- 4 Johannes Arnoldus, baptised 25th November 1823.
- 5 Johanna Arnoldina Louisa, baptised 25th November 1823.
- 6 Anna Catherina Theodora, born 7th October 1829.

## V.

Gerard Johan Altendorff, baptised at Galle, 10th April 1796, died 18th December 1864, married :—

- (a) Henrietta Louisa Meusz.

- (b) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 9th November 1829, Jacoba Margarita Keuneman, born 15th May 1812, died 25th October 1892, daughter of Jurgen Bartholomeus Keuneman and Petronella Cornelia Singanitti. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, page 201).

Of the first marriage he had :—

- 1 Fretz Arnold, who follows under VII.
- 2 Arnoldus Cornelis Frederikus, born 26th March 1820.
- 3 Gerard Henry, who follows under VIII.
- 4 Beata Petronella Henrietta, born 22nd July 1827.

Of the second marriage, he had :—

- 5 Josina Emelia Georgiana, born 8th November 1830, married Edward Kellar, born 5th June 1816, son of Daniel Christiaan Kellar and Johanna Sibilla Ephraums. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 80, and Vol. XXIV, page 105).
- 6 Charles Henry Bartholomew, who follows under IX.

## VI.

Justinus Ernestus Altendorff, baptised 1804, married Johanna Plantina Waltzell, baptised 6th June 1817, daughter of Joseph Waltzell and Susanna Elisabeth Walles. He had by her :—

- 1 James William Henry, baptised at Galle, 17th August 1834.

## VII.

Fretz Arnold Altendorff married Petronella Philipina Jansz, and he had by her :—

- 1 James Hadley, born 19th January 1848.
- 2 Andreas Charles, who follows under X.
- 3 William Darley, who follows under XI.
- 4 Charlotta Jemima, born 2nd February 1852.
- 5 Henry Angelo, born 26th October 1853, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 17th December 1881, Margaret Eleanor Cummins (widow).
- 6 George William, who follows under XII.
- 7 Arnold Edward, born 12th November 1858.
- 8 Joseph Lambert Dias, who follows under XIII.

## VIII.

Gerard Henry Altendorff, born 12th November 1822, died 2nd December 1886, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 30th May 1847, Lucretia Arabella de Caan, born 22nd February 1832, died 27th February 1877, daughter of Henricus Johannes de Caan and Bartholomina Gysberta Keuneman. He had by her :—

- 1 Emelia Georgiana, born 26th August 1850, died 26th September 1926, married :—



- (a) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 30th May 1872, John Franklin Thuring, born 17th September 1846, died 2nd August 1894, son of Jan Lodewyk Thuring and Adolphina Elisabeth de Caan. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXX, page 131).
- (b) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 4th April 1904, Peter Henry Andree, born 14th May 1847, died 28th May 1934, son of Charles Henry Andree and Priscilla Buultjens. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 14, and Vol. XXX, page 23).
- 2 Jurgen Alexander, born 27th July 1852, died 12th August 1876.
- 3 Charles Arnold Hollowell, born 12th January 1855, died 1900.
- 4 Alice Margaret, born 23rd July 1856, died 19th January 1938, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 22nd January 1879, George Frederick Kellar, Sub-Collector of Customs, born 16th August 1844, died 31st January 1903, widower of Laura Emelia Keuneman, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, page 201) and son of George Frederick Kellar and Gertruida Elisabeth Bogaars (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 81).
- 5 Nathaniel Trutand, who follows under XIV.
- 6 Drusilla Lucretia, born 31st January 1862, died 19th May 1906, married in Christ Church, Kurunegala 28th December 1882, Victor Albert Van Cuylenburg, Government Surveyor, born 6th March 1860, son of Frederick William Van Cuylenburg and Sophia Harriet Wootler. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VII, page 82).
- 7 Catherine Adelaide, born 1st January 1865, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 31st December 1886, Carlo Zanetti.

## IX.

Charles Henry Bartholomew Altendorff, J.P. for the Island, Crown Proctor, Matara, born 18th December 1836, died 27th December 1913, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 28th January 1861, Henrietta Charlotte Victoria Ludekens, born 14th June 1839, died 1st July 1916, daughter of Johan Philip Jacob Ludekens, Deputy Fiscal, Matara, and Wilhelmina Henrietta (Henrica) Pendergras. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, page 170). He had by her :—

- 1 Eugenie Victoria, born 18th December 1862, died 4th February 1876.
- 2 Wilfred Charles Victor, born 29th February 1864, died young.
- 3 Winifred Victoria, born 8th February 1865, died 21st January 1929.
- 4 Galla Victoria, born 14th August 1866, died 2nd February 1937, married in St. Thomas' Church, Matara, 28th January 1885, Charles Henry Ernst, Proctor, born 1st February 1857, died 27th November 1930, son of John Henry Ernst and Amelia Sophia Frederica Jansz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, page 91).

- 5 Trutand Victor, born 9th November 1867, died 25th December 1874.
- 6 Athelind Victoria, born 19th November 1868, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 16th November 1893, Henry Oswald Jonklaas, Forest Officer, born 27th June 1866, died 6th April 1922, son of Henricus Cornelis Jonklaas and Agnes Susanna de Vos (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, pages 205 and 208, and Vol. XXVII, page 186).
- 7 Grace Victoria, born 17th November 1869, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 14th June 1899, Chetwynd Lionel Meurling, Proctor, born 15th October 1867, died 3rd August 1909, son of Richard Gerald Meurling, Notary Public, and Harriet Charlotte Kellar. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXII, page 33).
- 8 Eleanor Victoria, born 14th April 1871, died June 1873.
- 9 Rosalind Victoria, born 16th July 1872.
- 10 Durand Victor, who follows under XV.
- 11 Oswald Victor, born 21st March 1875, died May 1876.
- 12 Glanville Hubert Frederick, who follows under XVI.
- 13 Vivienne Victoria, born 5th February 1879, died 8th February 1890 by drowning, with three other school boarders, when bathing in the sea at Wellamaddema in Matara, and buried in the cemetery there.
- 14 Lena Victoria, born 19th September 1882, died 20th February 1918, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 18th January 1911, Samuel Ludovici Anthonisz, L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.) Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Civil Medical Department, born 8th March 1860, died 9th May 1915, widower of Florence Helen Wright Jonklaas, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, page 207) and son of Gerardus Henricus Anthonisz and Susanna Magdalena Ludovici (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. III, page 62).

## X.

Andreas Charles Altendorff, born 24th September 1849, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 10th May 1876, Caroline Emelia Bastiaansz, born 22nd July 1855, daughter of Frederick Edward Bastiaansz, Notary Public, and Anna Caroline Poulier. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 27). He had by her :—

- 1 Angelberta Petronella, born 6th August 1877, killed in a motor accident at Deniyaya, 1st January 1934, married Louis William Dickman, died 4th January 1930, son of Johannes Jacobus Cornelius Dickman, Assistant Auditor-General, and Drusilla Johanna Engelina Woutersz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVI, page 127, and 128).
- 2 Charlotte Maria, born 3rd July 1879.
- 3 Fretz Arnold, who follows under XVII.

## XI.

William Darley Altendorff, born 22nd October 1850, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 4th September 1878, Marian Louisa Kellar, born 19th July 1858, died 29th July 1941, daughter of John Edwin Kellar and Julia Ulrica de Zilva. He had by her:—

- 1 Florence Ann, born 19th June 1880.
- 2 Eric Alexander.
- 3 Vivienne Grace, born 20th March 1886, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Galle, 29th January 1927, Granville Tyrrell Christoffelsz, born 19th August 1893, son of Henry Barnes Christoffelsz and Frances Georgiana Kellar. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, pages 18 and 20).
- 4 Henry Barton.
- 5 Louisa.

## XII.

George William Altendorff, born 19th February 1857, died 1899, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 13th September 1882, Lucy Winifred Mellonius, born 31st January 1858, died 1st June 1935, daughter of George Mellonius and Aletta Elizabeth Jonklaas, widow of Pieter Gerard de Vos, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVII, page 141), and daughter of Johannes Frederick Jonklaas and Catharina Henrietta Camp, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, pages 204 and 205). He had by her:—

- 1 Elizabeth Victoria Ruth, born 3rd May 1884, died 12th September 1917, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Maligakande, 27th December 1915, Edgar Lionel de Zilva Van Twest, born 17th September 1882, died 19th May 1922, son of Edgar Nathaniel de Zilva Van Twest and Annie Pereira.
- 2 Marian Gertrude, born 1st November 1885, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 28th July 1909, Percival Gerhard, son of James Gerhard and Susan Ebert.
- 3 Grace Adeline, born 5th March 1887, died March 1906.
- 4 Florence Mildred, born 13th September 1892, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 7th April 1913, Eric Irvin Friskin, born 12th April 1889, son of Charles Henry Friskin and Rosaline Margaret Potger. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVII, page 109).
- 5 Maud Joseline, born 15th September 1896, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 16th December 1914, Anselm Bernard Perera, son of Valentine Bernard Perera and Ursula Fernando.

## XIII.

Joseph Lambert Dias Altendorff, born 1st December 1862, died 1st December 1914, married in St. Thomas' Church, Matara, 2nd November 1893, Linda Vollenhoven, born 6th December 1872, daughter of James Edward Vollenhoven and Emelina Louisa Andrea. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 16, and Vol. XXIII, page 94). He had by her:—

- 1 Joseph Gerald, who follows under XVIII.
- 2 Annesley Harold, born 27th December 1899.
- 3 Linda Jemima, born 1st January 1904, married Lionel Pereira.
- 4 Mona, born 6th June 1909, married in St. Luke's Church, Borella, 18th May 1929, Eric William de Saram, born 19th May 1907, died 23rd March 1937, son of Herbert John de Saram, L.M.S. (Ceylon), L.S.A. (London), Civil Medical Department, and Henrietta Augusta Heilmann of London.

## XIV.

Nathaniel Trutand Altendorff, Station Master, Ceylon Government Railway, born 17th December 1860, died 2nd March 1902, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 20th September 1886, Adeline Drusilla Pompeus, born 28th December 1866, daughter of William Charles Pompeus and Aletta Elisabeth Jonklaas, widow of Pieter Gerard de Vos, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVII, page 141), and of George Mellonius, and daughter of Johannes Frederick Jonklaas and Catharina Henrietta Camp. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, pages 204 and 205). He had by her:—

- 1 Evelyn Trutand, who follows under XIX.
- 2 Terence Victor, born 27th February 1889, died 31st May 1890.
- 3 Lillian Belle, born 12th June 1892, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 12th August 1909, Egbert Nathaniel de Zilva Van Twest, born 15th May 1885, died 19th July 1923, son of Edgar Nathaniel de Zilva Van Twest and Annie Pereira.
- 4 Royden Herbert, born 28th March 1894, died 31st May 1895.
- 5 Vivian Shelton, who follows under XX.
- 6 Alexandra Irene, born 7th August 1902, married in Christ Church Cathedral, Colombo, 17th July 1924, Alexander Niel Abel.
- 7 George Neville, who follows under XXI.

## XV.

Durand Victor Altendorff, I.S.O., J.P., Deputy Inspector-General of Police, born 19th October 1873, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 28th December 1905, Gertrude Sperling Christoffelsz, born 24th December 1880, daughter of William Sperling Christoffelsz, I.S.O., J.P., C.C.S., and Mary Ann Fretz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. II, page 143 and Vol. XXIV, page 16). He had by her:—

- 1 Victor Sperling, who follows under XXII.
- 2 Marjorie Victoria, born 14th July 1914.

## XVI.

Glanville Hubert Frederick Altendorff, born 28th March 1876, married:—

- (a) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 12th January 1909, Myra Garvin, born 23rd November 1882, died 11th January 1917, daughter of Thomas Forrest Garvin, M.B., C.M., (Aber.), F.C.S. (Lond.), Superintendent, General Hospital, Colombo, and Grace Louisa Vander Smagt. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVIII, page 86).
- (b) In All Saints' Church, Galle, 11th May 1927, Bertha Charlotte Ephraums, born 31st December 1888, daughter of Albert Richard Ephraums and Laura Emmeline Anthonisz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 107).

Of the first marriage, he had:—

- 1 Myra Glencora, born 29th November 1909.
- 2 Olga Feodora, born 17th February 1911, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 11th May 1938, Gerald Eitel Ernst, Proctor, born 29th March 1899, widower of Henrietta Wilhelmina Schokman, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, page 112) and son of Charles Henry Ernst, Proctor, and Galla Victoria Altendorff (vide IX, 4, supra).

#### XVII.

Fretz Arnold Altendorff, Engine Driver, Ceylon Government Railway, born 18th October 1880, died 30th September 1941, married in St. Thomas' Church, Matara, 10th July 1910, Claire Elaine Ernst, born 10th July 1885, daughter of George Edward (Charles) Ernst and Catherine Eliza Sela. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, page 92). He had by her:—

- 1 Clarence Arnold Charles, born 25th January 1912.
- 2 Pansy Elaine, born 20th October 1913, died 26th February 1915.
- 3 Fretz Clifford, born 5th October 1914.

#### XVIII.

Joseph Gerald Altendorff, born 16th September 1894, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 5th March 1921, Estelle Waverney Keuneman, born 19th August 1900, daughter of Gerard Henry Keuneman, Head Clerk, Kachcheri, Batticaloa, and Evelyn Beatrice Buultjens. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, page 202, and Vol. XXX, page 25.) He had by her:—

- 1 Joseph Frank, born 11th February 1922.
- 2 Geraldine Estelle, born 21st June 1923, died 15th May 1924.
- 3 Sheila Rosemary, born 8th September 1929.

#### XIX.

Evelyn Trutand Altendorff, born 24th July 1887, married in the Registrar's Office, Colombo, 5th June 1912, Elsie Grizelda Markus, born 22nd May 1892, daughter of William Markus and Winifred Markus. He had by her:—

- 1 Evelyn Rachel, born 7th May 1914.

#### XX.

Vivian Shelton Altendorff, born 18th April 1896, died 30th March 1936, married in the Roman Catholic Church in Madras, February 1918, Sybil Audrey Mac Farlane, and he had by her:—

- 1 Adrian Joseph, born 31st January 1919.
- 2 Phyllis Zenobia, born 25th February 1920.
- 3 Olga Sybil, born 26th September 1922.
- 4 Mae Adeline, born 20th May 1928.
- 5 Shelton Matthew, born 18th December 1929.

#### XXI.

George Neville Altendorff, born 3rd March 1904, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Regent Street, Colombo, 16th September 1933, Florence Alice Zimsen, born 27th September 1906, daughter of Oscar Christian Zimsen and Ada Helen Fernando. He had by her:—

- 1 Ralph Neville, born 3rd July 1934.
- 2 Aelian Ronald, born 5th July 1935.
- 3 Jeune Carmen } 27th June 1936.
- 4 Joan Dagmar }
- 5 Glenda Noeline, born 23rd February 1938.
- 6 Marlene Dawn, born 28th August 1939.
- 7 Joyce May, born 6th May 1941.

#### XXII.

Victor Sperling Altendorff, born 1st July 1907, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 28th December 1938, Rena Victorine Anthonisz, born 17th May 1913, daughter of Samuel Ludovici Anthonisz and Lena Victoria Altendorff (vide IX, 14 supra). He had by her:—

- 1 Myrna Victorine born 24th October 1939, died 1st May 1942.

Notes:—(1) There is on record in the office of the Surveyor-General a beautifully coloured map of Ceylon with the title, which is in Dutch, enclosed in a highly ornamental border. The title on translation reads as follows:—

The Island of Ceylon, named Lankawe among the inhabitants, compiled in 1794 from the various maps of the individual districts surveyed, which constitute the Dutch possessions, arranged by Mr. Jacob Burnat and delineated by Laudinus Altendorff.

It is the last map of Ceylon done under the Dutch Administration, and Laudinus Altendorff appears to have been a Surveyor and Cartographer in the Dutch services. (Vide I, 2, Supra, and D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXI, page 110).

- (2) Maria Dorothea Ketelhack, wife of Lawrence Peter Altendorff, referred to under II, 2, was buried on the bund of the Annapitiya tank in Tangalle at the turn to Beliatte.



There is a monument built over the grave, and the tombstone bears the following quaint epitaph:

Here alas, lays buried under  
From Soul and Spirit asunder

The Body  
of Lady

Maria Dorothea Ketelhack

Who was in her life  
*a most blameless wife*  
During twenty years marriage

To

Mr Lawrence Peter Altendorff  
Chief Clerk of the Katchery  
of Tangalla

Born at Coëhien on the 8th of  
July, A.D. 1767

And expired on the 15th April

A.D. 1819

At Tangalla.

(D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XIX, pages 25 and 43, and 'Lewis' Book on "Tombstones and Monuments in Ceylon", page 212).

- (3) The Last Will and Testament dated 13th July 1842 of Lawrence Peter Altendorff, referred to under II, 2, gives an interesting glimpse of the customs of the times in which he lived and in which the Will was written, the character and disposition of the writer and his friends, the domestic life of the time, the language transition from the Dutch to English, etc. A short summary of the Will is therefore appended, as far as possible in his own words. The Will begins with the words. "In the name of God, Amen." It states that the whole of the estate will not amount to £ 250, if his large house, garden and orchard are sold in one lump, not by division, though he anticipates a higher price. This "castelled" property he called "Philadelphia", that is, brother's love. He gives fifteen shillings to the Dutch Reformed Protestant Church of Matara, and twelve shillings to the Wesleyan Missionary Society. To Catherina Jender, whom his wife had brought up from childhood but had since become a troublesome woman, he leaves £ 3 and a jak-wood chest containing her belongings, either given to her or won by industry, excepting a golden necklace and three sets of golden buttons with green and red stones which were in her charge for the use of her daughter, Maria. To Anna Maria Diardis, daughter of the said Catherina, and wife of Christoffel de Zilva

of Galle, the golden necklace and buttons referred to with £ 4 in cash and a Cochin chest with its square key. She is not to be deprived of them by her husband or any other person, and they are not to be touched by anyone even for use without her free will and consent. To his most beloved adopted child, Josephina Watha, born on 16th March 1836 and not baptised yet for certain reasons, £ 12 in cash, a small golden chain, his Cochin beaten-wood almirah, two square tables, a brass tea kettle and half the rough cloth found in the house. To his faithful maiden servant, Bahlehamy or Loesehamy, the Batavian rattan trunk frucked with leather and worked brass, all his crockery, a common table three cubits long, the remaining half rough cloth and £ 6 in cash. To Johanna Maria Swartz, unhappily married to his pupil who caused great loss of properties, £ 10 in cash, and to her unfortunate separated husband, William, all his garments with bed and sheets. To the two daughters of the said sadly afflicted pair, William and Johanna, one pair of silver bracelets set with white stones made in Cochin. After a few minor legacies, he relates a dream which he had at Pamboerene in 1824. God had marked him with a large cross on his long shirt with his own blood. Somebody had pierced his upper lip below the nose with a small needle, and the blood had dropped down like half cadjanny grains cross-ways. He begs therefore that a well rubefied wooden cross should be borne before his coffin as an armour of his faith by Mr. Arent de Zilva in full white dress and laid on his grave. The coffin was not to be defamed with blackening, but covered over with good, fine, white cloth at the expense of the estate, and it was to be carried to the grave by twelve Christian burghers, who were to be paid a whole Crown each. The pall with the Cross was to represent the fine white shirt of his dream. No one was to be invited to the funeral as he considered it to be a foolish custom, but all who attended by goodwill were, after the interment, to be asked in a loud voice by his grand-nephew, Henry Ernst, to return to the funeral house; and there be entertained highly in all the best sort of dainties with the finest beverage to be had, so that the funeral house may appear like a great Christian festival hostel, for he was sure his soul would go straight to Heaven. Those staying at the funeral house to watch the night over were to be entertained, feasting themselves, at the expense of the Estate. The remainder of the Estate—legacies, debts and funeral expenses being deducted—is to be auctioned and proceeds divided among a few persons named. The auctioneer nominated was Mr. John Cornelis Buyzer, and he was instructed not to hurry the sale of Philadelphia, but after tedious waiting for the highest offer and even then

not yet but with the consent of certain persons who were to be present on the same day and moment at the sale. The executors nominated were George Edward Ernst (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXII, page 90), Charles Daniel Ludovici (D.B.U. Journal Vol. III, page 62), and Charles William Poulier (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, pages 22 and 28), all of Matara. They were requested to read the Will in the hearing of the public near his death-bed, and thereafter to explain in Cingalese to Catherina and Bahlehamy those parts which concerned them.

- (4) Johanna Wilhelmina Altendorff, widow of Johannes Vollenhoven, referred to under II, 4, and Johanna Maria Swartz, widow of William Ferdinand Altendorff, referred to under IV, received assistance from a remittance sent in 1847 by the government of the Netherlands possession in the East Indies for the relief of widows and orphans of the servants of the late Dutch Government, who were not already in the receipt of any pension from Government. (Government notification" dated 17th July 1847).

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Proceedings of the Thirty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Dutch Burgher Union held in the Union Hall on Saturday, 25th March, 1944 at 6 p.m.

The President, Mr. H. K. de Kretser, occupied the Chair, and there were about 70 Members present.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting, after which the minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting were read and confirmed.

### PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS,

THE PRESIDENT then addressed the meeting as follows:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again it is my privilege, before moving the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts, to briefly review the work that has been done during the past year. We have, as you know, a Committee system of working, so I propose to take some of the principal Committees in turn and say a few words about the work they have done.

**The Literary Committee.**—This Committee was in the hands of Mr. H. E. Grenier as Secretary, and our thanks are due to him and his Committee for all the trouble they have taken in arranging the programmes. The attendance showed a marked improvement, but as compared to the attendances at some of our Members' Days leaves much to be desired. As I remarked before, the absence of the younger members is noticeable and disappointing. They no doubt consider these meetings uninteresting but far from being so they are both most interesting and instructive, and I would again appeal to them for their support.

The work of this Committee was confined during the year to monthly platform talks. I feel that this is insufficient, and I would like to see the work extended to circle discussions and readings carried out in an informal way, either weekly or fortnightly. We have the talent and it seems a pity we are not using it to our mutual benefit. It will not be amiss for me to say here that the late Mr. M. Anthonisz presented to the Union some valuable Dutch books belonging to his father—the founder of the Union.

**Social Service Committee.**—Last year I told you how impressed I was at the keenness displayed and the excellent work this Committee is doing. I wish this year to re-iterate all I said then, for this Committee under the guiding hand of the Secretary—Mrs Ferdinand—and her band of eager helpers continues to minister to the poor and suffering in a most praiseworthy manner. More applications for help were received than in previous years, and this is not surprising when we consider how very expensive everything is at present owing to the prevailing war conditions. As I said before, we are not a rich community and in our very midst we have many who do not know what the morrow has in store for them; perhaps, in proportion, in no other community are there so many who may be termed the genteel poor, who cannot make up their minds to beg but would nevertheless be most grateful to receive some help. The Committee received many pathetic appeals for help but no help is given without due investigation and to do this petrol is needed, and I am pleased to say that an appeal to the Petrol Controller has not been in vain. The work the Committee was doing in paying school fees has ceased as the Education Committee has taken over this work. The Committee has recently revised the list of Pensioners and a Register has been compiled giving the history of each case. It has also been decided to raise the minimum allowance from Rs. 5/- to Rs. 7-50 a month, this in itself involves an increase of Rs. 600/- a year. As you are doubtless aware, we receive an annual grant of Rs. 500/- from the Municipality, and we have now been requested by that body to send a monthly statement showing the disbursements we make. As usual, hampers were distributed at Christmas both here and at Kandy, the work at the Hill Capital being done by that ardent Social Service worker, Miss Grace Van Dort. In a matter like this, the more money we have the more we can do, and if you only know the happiness your subscriptions bring to these poor people I feel you will be more generous. I strongly appeal for your increased support. Every one in this Committee has worked well but special mention I think should be made of Mrs. Ferdinand, Mrs. Kelaart, and Mr. Cecil Speldewinde for visiting the poor.

**The Entertainment Committee.**—This is our most hard worked Committee. Our Secretary this year was Mr. F. M. Keegel, and as was the case last year, he and his Committee were called upon to do a spot of real work, and very great credit is due to them for organising the excellent shows we have had. Their task, as is the task of all such Committees, is a labour of love, for they receive very little thanks, but I wish them to know that we are very grateful to them for all the enjoyment they have given us. I particularly wish to thank the ladies of the Committee who looked after the catering—no easy task in these days of ceiling prices and non-existent commodities, but we have among them a stalwart in Mrs. de Hoedt, whose capabilities are now recognised even outside our Community. The high-lights of our entertainments were undoubtedly the dance we gave in honour of H. M. Queen Wilhelmina's birthday, which was attended by H. E. Vice-Admiral Sir C. E. Helfrich, and our New Year Dance.

**The Genealogical Committee.**—With Mr. J. R. Toussaint as Secretary the Committee did a very useful year's work. No less than 127 applications were dealt with as compared with 61 last year. I think this constitutes a record. Of this number 23 were from the members of the Dutch Forces. A particularly useful piece of work has just been completed. I refer to the binding into volumes of all the applications made from the start of the Union. This is a reference library in itself and is most helpful as they contain the genealogies of a very large number of families.

**The Education Committee.**—I now come to this Committee which is only two years old—quite a baby but growing vigorously. Excellent work was done during the year, and when I tell you that we collected Rs. 1,792/- of which Rs. 1,232/-

are annual subscriptions, you will realise that this Committee means business. Mr. Cecil Speldewinde is the Secretary, and as I told you last year its duty is to co-ordinate the various educational activities of the Union and afford as much help as possible to deserving cases. In some cases it may be the paying of school fees for some elementary education, and in other cases it may be the helping of some boy or girl to prepare for entering some profession. The Committee is prepared to consider any case that comes up before it, and I would ask you to send in any name that you think deserving of help. On the face of what I have said you will appreciate that the scope of this Committee is very great, but we feel confident that with your cooperation and help much could be achieved. I need not tell you that there are quite a number of intelligent and fine young lads in our Community, who, given the opportunity, will not only be a credit to the Dutch Burghers, but to the whole Island. In a matter like this the more money we have the more could we do, and I appeal to you to help this excellent work. Regular monthly or yearly subscriptions are preferable to donations for it is easier to budget in this way.

**Schneider Scholarships.**—It may be mentioned that three Scholarships at St. Thomas' College were recently awarded to boys of our Community, and you will be pleased to know that according to the terms of the will of the late Lady Schneider it will be possible to award more scholarships in future. This gesture on the part of the Schneider family to help the boys of the Community is one that we shall never forget. I would also like to mention that through the generosity of one of our members a student is being trained at the Agricultural College at Peradeniya.

**The Finance Committee.**—I will now pass on to the Finance Committee. Under the vigilant eye of our new Hony. Treasurer, Mr. A. L. B. Ferdinand, we have ended the year with a surplus balance of Rs. 2613-73 in hard cash as Mr. Ferdinand likes to call it, and this is very creditable indeed. We have also transferred during the year a sum of Rs. 1,500/- to our Reserve—a very wise precaution. Last year the work was heavy and our thanks are due to Mr. Ferdinand for the very healthy state of our Union's finances. Mr. Ferdinand is also the Bar Secretary—not an enviable job in these days when it is so difficult to get the necessary liquor!

**Committee to Increase the Membership.**—This Committee did some useful work, and when I tell you that 70 new members were admitted through their efforts you will realize that a great deal of trouble was taken in this connection, and our thanks are due to Mr. D. Toussaint, the Secretary, and all those who interested themselves in this most useful work. The stronger we are in numbers the more can we achieve, for not only will we have more money from subscriptions but we also have a larger selection of members to help us in our different activities. I am afraid I have already taken up a great deal of your time, so I will not tell you about the work of the remaining Committees or bow our Trust Funds stand etc. You will see all this in the printed report. Suffice to say that everything is in a satisfactory condition.

I now wish to say a few words on matters of general interest, but before I do so I wish to record with deep regret the deaths of seven of our members during the year under review—the loss of two of them in particular will be long felt—I refer to Lady Schneider and Mr. Mauritz Anthonisz, the son of our founder.

**General.**—The War is still with us in all its fury, but every year and day brings us nearer to what we all hope and pray for—viz, Victory and a lasting peace. In my foreword for the New Year which appeared in our Bulletin I said that we might look upon 1943 as a year of THANKFULNESS and 1944 as a year of HOPE. I wish to re-iterate what I said then. 1944 has started auspiciously and we are very very hopeful, and can only pray with the rest of the world that this terrible conflict will very soon be over, and that peace and good-will will once again prevail.

**Members Days.**—During the year these social meetings specially organised to bring the members together were held and were exceedingly successful. Members I know now look forward to these days and I trust they will be a regular

feature of the Union's activities. A great deal of good could be done by bringing our members together, thus giving them an opportunity of making new friends and coming to know each other better. These functions are generally divided into two parts—the first composed of musical items and competitions, and the second, dancing. I wish to convey to all those who organised these functions the Union's grateful thanks for all the trouble they have taken. In this connection I wish to sound a note of warning to the organisers, and that is please do not provide elaborate entertainment—it is exceedingly kind of those who can afford it, to do the best they can, but when this is done it is very embarrassing to those who are not so fortunately placed. I would therefore suggest that there be a uniform kind of entertainment and that, for a change, we occasionally have something special NOT run by any individual but by the Sub-Committee, levying, if necessary, a small charge to cover expenses.

**Group Activity.**—To encourage members who are particularly interested in any special kind of work and also with a view to keeping the members together we intend forming Activity Groups. So far we have formed a Choral and Dramatic Group, and this Group has already proved very helpful by the assistance they have rendered and the entertainments they have "staged". We are now thinking of another Group—the Music Group, and we hope soon to have our own Orchestra. We can quite easily have other groups like Hiking and Cycling and so forth, but war conditions are rather against the extension of our activity in this direction.

**Outstation Centres.**—In my last address I mentioned that I was keen about having some Branches in the principal towns, and I feel guilty that I have not visited, as I fully intended to do, some of the outstations to sense the feeling of the members there to this proposal. We have however not lost sight of this matter, for we had a special Sub-Committee appointed to look into the amendment of the constitution to give effect to this, and I hope it will not be long before we have our tentacles spread further out—at any rate to Galle and Kandy.

**Introduction of New Members.**—New members are coming in very satisfactorily, but most of us have not had the pleasure of meeting them. This is most unsatisfactory and I hope the suggestion of introducing members as done in some Clubs will soon be an accomplished fact. I would like to see, once a month, all the members who have been elected during the previous month introduced to the President and members of the Union. This may be done on a Members' Day and there need not be any elaborate ceremony. The new members may be introduced to the President by the proposers, and the President while extending his hand of fellowship may present the Rules of the Constitution and explain in a few words what our Union stands for. By this means we will come to know our new members and they will in turn feel and appreciate their responsibilities to the Union.

**Founder's Day.**—We celebrated our first Founder's Day in October on the birthday of our Founder—the late Mr. R. G. Anthonisz. The function was impressive and successful and I trust it will henceforth be an annual function.

**St. Nicholas' Day.**—We had a very successful function, as we always do, but I felt that we might have given more time to the children for their enjoyment. This is the only day organised for them, and in view of the fact that we have so many functions organised for the grown-ups may we not devote this day in future entirely to the children. Please think over this.

**Youth Section.**—What struck me forcibly during the year was the large number of boys and girls ranging from 15 to 20 years we have in our midst, as evidenced at our meetings. These boys and girls are not old enough to be members. I told you last year that I am a great believer in Youth, and I feel strongly that we should have a Junior Section attached to our Union to take in hand these youngsters and make them interested in what we stand for. This is of course a matter which requires careful consideration, and I commend it to the Union. The boys and girls of today will be the men and women of tomorrow, and unless we catch them young and mould them in the right direction there is always the fear of their drifting away from our fold.

**Building Shares.**—As most of you are aware, there is a campaign in progress for the Union to purchase as many, if not all the shares in the Dutch Burgher Building Co. The formation of this Company was necessary to raise funds for constructing this Building, but it was hoped then that the shares would eventually be bought by the Union so that our Headquarters and Home would belong to us. This has not yet materialised, but the Union is hoping to accomplish this as soon as possible, and I earnestly commend Shareholders to either donate or sell their shares to the Union. They may rest assured that there would be sufficient safeguards made to prevent the building at any time being lost to the Union. We have recently felt the need for expansion and if new members keep joining as they are doing at present, it will be essential for us to extend this building, and it will be much simpler for us to do so ourselves than ask our Landlord (The Dutch Burgher Building Co.) to do this. In this connection I would like to mention that the Dutch Burgher Building Co. have all along treated us generously and well, and we are very grateful to them for all they have done for us, and they should not for a moment think that we are working against them.

**The Dutch Forces With Us.**—The members of the Dutch Forces to whom we have extended our hospitality and friendship are still with us, and I need hardly say that we are very happy to do all we can for them in their anxiety and loneliness. With the tempo of the war in the East rising, our friends are called away from Colombo more often, but whenever they are in Port they attend our functions and they are always welcome. As a mark of their gratitude they propose to present some paintings, at present being executed, to be hung in this Hall.

**Dutch Classes.**—These Classes organised for the adults and children continue to be held and I understand some of the students have shown excellent progress. I wish in this connection to convey my thanks to Rev. Lindeijer, Lieut. M. Krauss, and Corp. J. Bekker for all the trouble they have taken in conducting these classes.

**Conclusion.**—In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation of the great help so readily given me by the Office Bearers and the General Committee. In conducting the meetings of the General Committee I generally refrained from forcing my own personal viewpoint, for I maintain that any decision made must be a decision of the Committee and should not be influenced by the Chair. In Mr. Fred Loos I had a new and very energetic Hony. Secretary, who was always anxious to please and give of his best. Our Hony. Treasurer was also new, but was equal to the task, and in a terse and crisp way watched the finances of the Union in a very efficient manner.

I wish now to thank the members of the General Committee for their patience, co-operation and readiness to help. During the year we had many complex questions to decide and I thank you gentlemen for your help. You have lightened my burden and I am very grateful to you. We may have made mistakes in our decisions—to err is human after all—but in all our deliberations we never lost sight of what the Union stands for, and endeavoured our best to uphold the traditions so dear to us.

I wish finally to refer to the good work done by Mr. Johnson, our very hard-worked clerk. With the activities of the Union increasing his work also increases, and I wish to express my appreciation for all he has done. Last year we promised him some assistance and we have fulfilled our promise by the appointment of Mr. Berenger to help him.

When I look back on the year which has gone all too quickly and the work we have accomplished, I realize what a great deal there still remains to be done and I earnestly hope that we shall go on from strength to strength, and be a source of great usefulness to our Community and a credit to the country we serve. (Applause).

## Adoption of Report and Accounts.

The motion for the adoption of the Report and Accounts having been duly seconded, Mr. D. V. ALTENDORFF rose to offer a few remarks in the course of which he pointed out some errors which called for amendment. He referred to the poor support accorded to the Journal by the members. He was of opinion that some form of regular recreation should be provided for the Children of Members in the Union Grounds. He drew attention to the comparatively small number of outstation members, and urged that steps should be taken to get in more of these members and that readings and lectures should be organised in the outstations for their benefit. He suggested that Mrs. Isabel Loos' connection with the legacy for Social Service should be more clearly identified with her name in the accounts than it was at present. He commented on the large sums outstanding on account of Sundry Debtors and the income derived by the sale of spirits. He pointed out a discrepancy between the Report and the Accounts in regard to the amount expended for Founder's Day and Queen Wilhelmina's Birthday Celebrations. Finally he commented on the unconventional attire adopted by some of the members who visit the Club, and hoped there would be an improvement in the future.

MR. O. L. DE KRETSEK JR. also offered a few comments, after which the motion for the adoption of the Report & Accounts was put to the meeting and carried, subject to the substitution of the words "81st December" 1942 for the words "21st December 1943" in the first paragraph of the Report, and the figures "Rs. 799-81" for the figures "Rs. 1,200" in the last paragraph.

## Vote of Thanks to Retiring Office-Bearers.

MR. C. A. SPELDEWINDE proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring office-bearers, and in doing so paid a tribute to the excellent work done by them. The motion was seconded by Dr. A. Nell and carried unanimously.

## Election of President.

At this stage the President vacated the Chair, and on the motion of Mr. R. L. Brohier, seconded by Dr. R. L. Spittel, the Chair was taken by MR. D. V. ALTENDORFF, *pro tem*.

MR. ALTENDORFF, in proposing the re-election of Mr. De Kretser, referred in high terms to the good work done by him. He was aware that Dr. Spittel was a believer in short term Presidents, but he was not going to take his prescription. A new man required time to get into his stride, whereas a man who had been tried and not been found wanting should be given an opportunity of continuing his good

work. During Mr. de Kretser's Presidentship the Union had progressed. It had gone from strength to strength, and he had every confidence that it would advance still further. He had great pleasure in proposing the re-election of Mr. de Kretser.

DR. R. L. SPITTEL seconded and the motion was carried with acclamation. Mr. de Kretser then re-occupied the Chair and thanked the members for re-electing him.

### Election of Secretary.

MR. E. A. VAN DER STRAATEN, I.S.O. proposed the re-election of Mr. Fred Loos as Hon'y. Secretary. He dwelt on the able manner in which Mr. Loos had discharged the arduous duties of the office, and expressed the conviction that he would do even better in his second year of office.

THE HON. MR. A. E. KEUNEMAN seconded the motion which was agreed to unanimously.

### Election of Treasurer.

MR. J. R. TOUSSAINT proposed the re-election of Mr. A. L. B. Ferdinand, C.O.S., as Hon'y. Treasurer. He pointed out how the work had increased during the last five years, notwithstanding which Mr. Ferdinand found time, in the midst of his responsible official duties, to attend to the accounting work of the Union. He took that opportunity of congratulating Mr. Ferdinand on his promotion to the rank of Assistant Government Agent. The motion was seconded by MR. J. A. MARTENSZ and carried unanimously.

### Election of Committee.

MR. HUBERT AUSTIN proposed that the following gentlemen do form the Committee of Management for the ensuing year:—

**Colombo.** Mr. D. V. Altendorff, Mr. L. E. Blaze, Dr. J. R. Blaze, Mr. R. L. Brohier, Dr. F. E. R. Bartholomeusz, Mr. C. L. Beling, Mr. C. P. Brohier, Dr. H. S. Christoffelsz, Mr. A. E. Christoffelsz, Dr. H. A. Drickze, Mr. H. E. de Kretser, Dr. S. de Vos, Mr. A. E. Dirckze, Mr. C. E. Foenander, Mr. G. H. Gratiaen, Hon'ble Mr. A. E. Keuneman, Mr. Rosslyn Koch, Mr. F. E. Loos, Mr. W. J. F. La Brooy, Mr. J. A. Martensz, Mr. A. J. H. Martin, Dr. V. R. Schokman, Mr. C. C. Schokman, Mr. C. A. Speldewinde, Mr. J. R. Toussaint, Mr. L. Thomasz, Mr. W. J. A. Van Langenberg, Mr. E. A. Vanderstraaten, Mr. H. Vanden Driesen, Dr. R. L. Spittel,

**Outstation.** Dr. V. H. L. Anthonisz, Dr. E. S. Brohier, Dr. E. L. Christoffelsz, Mr. O. L. de Kretser (Jnr.), Mr. H. C. de Vos, Mr. F. W. E. de Vos, Mr. Wace De Niese, Hon'ble Mr. O. L. de Kretser, Mr. G. V. Grenier, Col. A. C. B. Jonklaas, Mr. E. G. Jonklaas, Mr. G. P. Keuneman, Mr. H. R. Kriekenbeek, Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, Dr. H. Ludovici.

The Motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

### Election of Auditor.

MR. C. A. SPELDEWINDE proposed the re-election of Mr. Lawrie Muthu Krishna as Auditor for the ensuing year on the same remuneration as before.

The motion was duly seconded and agreed to.

### Amendment of Constitution.

THE PRESIDENT moved the following amendments to the Constitution:—

In Rule 6 (c) delete from "Colombo Members" (at the top of page 8 in the printed rules) to "Colombo Re. 1/- class" (at the end of sub-section 6 (c) and insert the following:

"Members resident within Colombo Municipal limits	..	Rs. 1/50
"Members resident outside Colombo Municipal limits	..	cents 50

Members paying these rates shall alone be eligible for election as President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary of a Standing Committee or member of the General Committee and shall have full management and control of the Union. They shall be entitled to the use of the Bar and the Billiard and Bridge Tables on a cash basis and to credit as provided in Rule 6 (f).

Colombo members who were paying subscriptions at the rate of Rs. 2/50 a month and outstation members who were paying subscriptions at the rate of Re. 1/- a month shall in future pay their subscriptions at the above rates of Rs. 1/50 and 50 cents a month respectively and shall, unless they notify to the Treasurer in writing their intention to the contrary, be deemed to have elected to pay the amount prescribed in Rule 6 (f) for credit."

In Rule 6 (d) insert the word "other" between "any" and "person" and instead of "22nd August 1936" substitute "25th March 1944" and after the words "as heretofore" add the following "Namely

- (1) Colombo members paying Re. 1/- a month shall be entitled to use the Bar and the Billiard and Bridge Tables on a cash basis;
- (2) Colombo members paying 50 cents a month shall be entitled to use the Bar and the Billiard and Bridge Tables on a cash basis on the following occasions only: Annual and Special General Meetings; St. Nicholas Eve Fete; Lectures, Dances and Dinners; and ordinary visits not exceeding 12 a year.

provided that on or after March 25th 1944 no person shall be elected, readmitted, or transferred to these classes of membership."

In Rule 6 (f) at the beginning, before the words "All bills" insert the following:

"Credit up to a limit of Rs. 20/- may be extended to members paying the rates of subscription prescribed in Rule 6 (c), provided that members desiring credit shall signify their wish in writing to the Treasurer and pay in addition to their subscription a regular monthly fee of Re. 1/- in the case of a Colombo member and 50 cents in the case of an outstation member for this privilege."



In doing so he said:—I do not propose to read the text of the amendment as you have it before you. The sum and substance of it is to have a flat rate of subscription of Rs. 1/50 for Colombo members and -/50 cts. for outstation members. During the year this question of subscriptions has cropped up time and again. At present we have three rates of subscription—viz Rs. 2/50, Re. 1/- and -/50 cts. This in itself is most unsatisfactory and unusual in Clubs. On the one hand it has been suggested that the Rs. 2/50 class is an exclusive class, and on the other hand others feel that being in the Re. 1/- class they are not entitled to all the privileges and are looked down upon. All this is most unsatisfactory and unhealthy for the Union, so during the year we have had discussions to see what had best be done to rectify matters. At one time we thought that allowing members of the Standing Committees to be elected from the Re. 1/- class would meet the case. Looking further into the matter this was also found not very satisfactory, so after a deal of discussion the General Committee felt that a flat rate of Rs. 1/50 a month with equal privileges and rights would be the best solution. All that is asked for is an increase of -/50 cts. a month or say 1½ cts. a day. Surely this is not asking too much and I personally feel that this extra -/50 cts. is not going to hit any one so terribly as to make it impossible for him to pay. Members think nothing of paying Rs. 2/- for a Dance Ticket even two or three times a month, so surely they can pay this extra -/50 cts. for all the advantages, and there are many that this Union provides. For any such change to be successful there must be good will and co-operation, so let us not split hairs over fine points. This amendment is a genuine effort on the part of the Union to let all members feel that they have an equal right to everything, and particularly to give an opportunity to the younger members to participate in the management of the Union's affairs. It has been said that it would take a very long time before all the members are transferred to one class. I do not think this should take much time. If we have an active Committee appointed to contact all the members, there is no reason why this should not be done in a few months. As regards the financial implications, if the majority of the members agree to pay the extra -/50 cts. I understand we can go on as we are doing at present without any difficulty. On behalf of the General Committee I move that the constitution be amended to give effect to this proposal.

The motion was seconded by the HON. MR. A. E. KEUNEMAN in an able and lucid speech.

Mr. O. L. de Kretser, Jr., Mr. D. V. Altendorff, I.S.O. and Mr. E. A. vanderStraaten, I.S.O. offered some comments, after which the motion was put to the meeting and carried by a two-thirds majority, 50 out of 66 members eligible to vote being in favour of it.

This concluded the business of the meeting. A collection was then taken in aid of the Social Service Fund and realised Rs. 91.40.

## THE DUTCH BURGER UNION OF CEYLON.

### Thirty-sixth Annual Report.

Your Committee have much pleasure in submitting the following Report for the year 1943:—

**Membership.**—The number of members on the roll at the end of the year under review was 597 as compared with 474 at the end of the previous year. The net increase of 123 members is arrived at as follows:—

At 31st December 1942	...	...	474
Add new members joined in 1943		119	
Old members rejoined	"	18	132
			606
Less resigned	...	4	
Struck off under Rule 6 (c)		—	
Died	...	5	9
			597

This total includes 91 Lady Members and 65 temporary residents in the Island. Of the 65 temporary members, 32 joined in 1943.

<b>Colombo Members.</b>	...	...	1941	1942	1943
Paying Rs. 2-50		...	63	63	74
" 1-00		...	81	128	216
" 50 cents		...	148	136	128
<b>Outstation Members</b>					
Paying Rs. 1-00		...	57	58	74
" 50 cents		...	72	76	78
Out of the Island		...	12	13	27
Total	...		483	474	597

**General Committee and Office Bearers.**—14 Committee Meetings were held during the year with an average attendance of 21. Mr. Herbert Wille resigned in December and the vacancy was not filled.

**Standing Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes.** The system of monthly lectures or talks was continued throughout the year on a variety of subjects; Poetry, Music, Naval and Military episodes and experiences etc. Many of the papers were of a high order and the talks exceedingly interesting. The attendance at these meetings has greatly improved during the year.

**The Journal** continues to occupy an important place in the life of the Union. During the year under review, many articles of interest to the Community were published, while a steady stream of Genealogies was maintained by Mr. D. V. Altendorff, and in a smaller way by Mr. B. R. Blaze. The cost of publishing the Journal

for 1943 was Rs. 339-00. Of this, Rs. 179/- was met from the annual subscriptions and the balance Rs. 160/- was charged to the sum generously donated for the purpose by a member. Of the 597 members only 67 subscribed towards the Journal.

The Editorship of the Bulletin was taken over by Mr. R. L. Brohier, who has introduced many new and attractive features into this leaflet, and we wish to record our thanks to Mr. J. R. Toussaint, the past Editor. An educational supplement bearing the title EENDRACHT, intended for the children of members of the Union, is now issued as a supplement and is serving a useful purpose.

The Reference Library has received a valuable accession of Books, both by purchase, and by the generous donation by Mrs. Meta Anthonisz of books belonging to the Library of the late Mr. Maurits Anthonisz. The Library is now well stocked and only requires a few more works of importance to make the collection a representative one.

**Standing Committee for Purposes of Social Service.** This Committee met 12 times during the year with an average attendance of 10. The total receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 3,639-06 and includes a sum of Rs. 1,125/- representing two years' Grant from the Public Assistance Committee of the Colombo Municipal Council, and the proceeds of two Concerts organized by Miss Olive Rode and Lieut. Commander Nieuwenhuizen respectively. Our thanks are due to them and their helpers. Regular assistance was given to 41 persons and the total disbursements amounted to Rs. 3,024-92.

**Standing Committee for Purposes of Genealogical Research.** The number of Meetings held during the year was 12, the average attendance of members being 7. The number of applications dealt with was 127, of which 35 were from persons temporarily resident in the Island. The Genealogical Committee, on a reference from the Membership Committee, tendered its advice in regard to a list of persons whom the latter desired to approach as prospective members. Applications for Membership dating from the inception of the Union, which were preserved in loose files, were securely bound into four stout volumes.

**Standing Committee for Purposes of Social, Recreation, Entertainment and Sport.** Members were certainly well catered for as regards entertainment. A new feature was the introduction of Members' Day which proved very popular. In addition to the usual dances and Guest Nights, a very successful and well attended dance was held on the eve of Her Majesty Queen Wilhelmina's Birthday. Founder's Day was also celebrated for the first time, and the newly formed Choral Group made a most successful debut on the occasion.

**Standing Committee for Increase of Membership.** This Committee met three times during the year. A list of over 200 potential members has been prepared as the nucleus for a Membership drive. Although an extensive campaign was not launched during the year

under review, this Committee was largely responsible for the increase of Membership as shown in the figures appearing elsewhere in this Report. Members of this Committee were instrumental in introducing approximately 70 new members, and it is felt that an organised drive would meet with considerable success owing to the increasing social activities and the realisation among non-members of the value of membership. It is hoped that the list referred to will be added to and continue to prove useful.

**Standing Committee for Historical Manuscripts and Monuments.** The Historical and Manuscripts Committee have assisted in advising on the proposal to embody a historical background in a scheme of decorations for the Hall. A list of Dutch Monuments which have been conserved is under preparation.

**Standing Committee for Purposes of Education.** This Committee met ten times during the year with an average attendance of 7.8. This is the first year in which it has been performing what probably would be its principal function—the collection and disbursement of funds to assist education of needy and deserving children of the Community. The response to this appeal for subscriptions has been heartening. A sum of Rs. 1,792-00 has been collected of which Rs. 1,232-00 represents subscriptions that have been promised annually. Disbursement out of this only began towards the end of this year, and the amount paid out up to December 31st, 1943 amounted to only Rs. 113-00, but the commitments undertaken would amount to about Rs. 600/- in a full year. The Committee has also launched in November another appeal for donations towards the creating of an Education Endowment Fund, the realisation of which should be a matter of report next year. But it takes this opportunity to commend the scheme for the support of the members of the Union. In addition, it has been found possible to continue the Scholarship at the Peradeniya School of Agriculture through the generosity of a member of the Union. The cost for this year was Rs. 410-00.

The Committee has also been able to arrange for two Classes for the Study of Dutch which meet weekly; one for Adults and another for Children. It is regretted that the attendance has tended to drop. The thanks of the Union are due to Rev. J. N. Lindeijer, Chaplain, Lieut. M. Krauss and Corp. J. Bekker of the Royal Netherlands Navy. In order to encourage the study of Sinhalese, and to impress upon parents of school children the increased importance of both Sinhalese and Tamil in the School curriculum and in public life of the Country, the Committee has decided to award annual prizes for Sinhalese. The first examination for this purpose was held in December 1943 and the response as well as the results were encouraging. We wish to record our thanks to Mr. H. R. H. de Silva for his help.

The work of the Committee has only just begun and it may be necessary for its success that information should be collected on the various aspects of its work. Its own efforts to get information both

by calling a conference and by addressing a Questionnaire to persons likely to be interested have not met with the success that might be wished.

Three Schneider Scholarships were awarded by St. Thomas' College on the results of the Examination held in December.

**Sub-Committee for Building Shares.** In a Memorandum submitted by this Committee, a concrete scheme for the acquisition of the remaining shares owned by individual members was approved of by the General Committee. Steps were then taken to give effect to this decision and a circular letter was sent out to all Shareholders requesting them either to donate or sell at par value their shares to the Union. Subscriptions were called for to meet the cost of the shares to be purchased and a sum of Rs. 985/- was subscribed. A sum of Rs. 1,000/- was voted by the General Committee out of the Reserve Fund for the same purpose. 53 shares were transferred during the year under review, making the total owned by the Union of 161.

**St. Nicholaas' Fete.**—This Annual Festival was celebrated in the usual manner and attracted a large number of members and their wives and children. Arrangements were, as usual, in the hands of a Sub-Committee of ladies and gentlemen, to whose efforts the success of the function was due. Notwithstanding the high cost of Toys, the ladies in charge of the various Sections made use of the money allotted to them to the best advantage. Subscriptions collected to meet the expenses amounted to Rs. 1,687.07. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 1,503.40 was spent. 196 children received gifts as compared with 146 in the previous year.

**Vocation Fund.**—The position of this Fund is as follows:—

In Bank on 1-1-43	...	Rs. 4,061-66
Paid in during the year	...	400-00
Bank Interest	...	85-31

Rs. 4,546-97

Amount advanced during the year on account Medical College Fees	200-00
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In Bank on 31-12-44 Rs. 4,346-97

**Special Funds.**—The amounts to the credit of the Special Funds of the Union on December 31st, 1943 were as follows:—

Loos Legacy	...	Rs. 6,034-59
Speldewinde Trust Fund	...	Rs. 2,589-30
Belting Memorial Fund	...	Rs. 550-42
Arndt Trust Fund	...	Rs. 2,075-45

No applications were received during the year for assistance from these Funds.

**Dr. De Hoedt Medical Scholarship Fund.**—Your Committee has pleasure in publishing for your information the following report received from the Trustees of this Fund.

Three students were assisted by this Fund, the fees paid amounting to Rs. 654-25, and cash in Bank on December 31st, 1943 was Rs. 17,347.69. This included a sum of Rs. 15,000/- which had been loaned under mortgage and returned during the year. Of this amount Rs. 14,000 has since been invested in 3% War Loan.

**Affiliation.**—Owing to paper control, Annual Reports and Statements of affiliated bodies are not printed in this Report. Copies are available at the Office for the information of the Members.

**Finance.**—11 Meetings of the Committee were held during the year with an average attendance of 7 members.

The accounts for the year, duly audited and submitted herewith, disclose an excess of income over expenditure of Rs. 2,613/73. A sum of Rs. 1,500/- was deposited in Reserve Fund during the year under review. Besides this, an expenditure of nearly Rs. 1,200/- was met from Union Funds for Queen Wilhelmina's Birthday Celebrations and Founder's Day. In spite of the above items of expenditure, there has been a marked improvement in the financial position of the Union. The Treasurer desires to thank all Members who very kindly helped him during the year by their ready support and co-operation.

FRED LOOS,

*Honorary Secretary.*

21st February, 1944.

**Note by Editor:**—Owing to paper restriction, the Annual Accounts, have had to be held over from this issue. They will appear in the July number of the Journal.

### Notes of Events.

*Summary of Proceedings of the General Committee, 11th January, 1944:*—(1) The resignation by Mr. George de Hoedt of his Membership in the Union was accepted. (2) The gift by Mrs. Meta Anthonisz of a Dutch Chair and a collection of books was accepted with much gratitude.

*15th February 1944:*—(1) Resolved that a sum of Rs. 1,000 be transferred to Reserve. (2) It was reported that Schneider Scholarships had been granted to R. L. Thomasz, G. F. Arndt, and F. H. Collette. (3) It was reported that the Social Service Committee had decided to raise the minimum monthly allowance from Rs. 5 to Rs. 7-50. (4) It was decided to initiate an Internal Salvage Scheme, and the Hon. Secretary and Mr. M. Vander Straaten were appointed Salvage Stewards. (5) The following new members were elected:—Mr. C. E. Albrecht, Dr. C. L. Bartholomeusz, and Mrs. T. M. Bartholomeusz.

*28th February 1944:*—The Draft Report and Accounts were approved, and it was agreed that the President should move the amendments to provide for a flat rate of subscription.

*22nd March 1944:*—(1) A vote of condolence was passed on the death of Mr. A. J. Van Rooyen, and the Chairman mentioned with regret that intimation had been received of the death in India of K. P. Joseph, Assistant Bar-Keeper for many years. (2) It was reported that the Hon. Mr. A. E. Keuneman had agreed to transfer 10 building shares to the Union on certain conditions. This was agreed to. (3) Lieut. Commander Nieuwenhuizen, an honorary member, was elected an ordinary member of the Union.

### Notes and Queries.

*The Rev. Dom Hildebrand vanDerStraaten, O. S. B.* The following sketch of the life of this member of our Community, which appeared in a School Magazine in 1910, will, we feel sure, be read with interest. It is only necessary to say that the subject of this notice was the son of John Lewis VanderStraaten by his marriage with Elizabeth Louisa Kriekenbeek, and the brother-in-law of Dr. J. L. VanderStraaten.

#### The Very Rev. Dom Hildebrand vanderStraaten, O. S. B.

Dom Hildebrand vanderStraaten (or, as he was better known in the world, Francis vanderStraaten) was a worthy scion of an old and well-reputed Burgher stock in Colombo. In the early fifties, while yet in his teens, his integrity of life, combined with an intelligence far above his age, attracted the notice of the late Dr. Cingolani, O.S.B., who was then the missionary resident at St. Philip Neri's,

Pettah, and selected by the latter as a most fitting candidate for the sacred dignity of the Priesthood. With this object he went through a course in the Latin tongue under the able tuition of so great a scholar as Father Cingolani had a reputation for; and made such rapid progress in this study that when the latter undertook a voyage to Italy in 1858, young vanderStraaten was chosen as a companion in the voyage, together with another youthful aspirant for the Priesthood in the person of Henry Assauw (afterwards so well-known among us of the present generation as the revered and Very Rev. Father D. Lanfranc Assauw, O.S.B.). Having arrived in Italy, vanderStraaten set about the attainment of his heart's desire by having himself enrolled among the Silvestrine Monks of the great Benedictine Order, at Monte Fano, near Ancona. Here he went through the usual novitiate of one year, took his vows, and was thence sent to the Roman College for a complete seven years' course through all the arduous studies in sacred and profane learning that are rightly deemed necessary for the proper and befitting equipment of a Catholic Priest. During his attendance at the lectures delivered at the Roman College the young monk soon gave manifest proof that the look of intelligence which had earned for him the singular privilege in being favoured with an opportunity of prosecuting his studies in the very centre of classical learning had not belied him in the least. He was endowed with gifts and talents manifold; and the possession of these, hand-in-hand with an earnestness and a persistence in the conducting of his inquiries after knowledge, carried him to the forefront of his division at College. His energy and perseverance finally brought him their due measure of recognition, for he was honoured with the distinctive (though by him unsought) degree of Doctor of Philosophy. At the completion of his course in the Roman College he was ordained Priest at the Lateran Basilica in 1866. A year after Father vanderStraaten bade adieu to the Land of the Pontiffs and took passage back to that of his birth. On his arrival in his native soil he was at first appointed to the staff of St. Benedict's in the early days of that Institute, whence he was shortly afterwards transferred to the missions. His first field of missionary labour was the Moratuwa District. Here, as well as in other missions of the Vicariate of Colombo, he found ample opportunities of giving vent to his zeal for the conversion of souls, till about the close of the year 1874. In this year the Abbey of St. Anthony's was erected in Kandy, with the Right Revd. Dr. Cingolani as its first Abbot. The latter was no sooner installed at the head of the religious brotherhood at St. Anthony's than he gave manifest token of his appreciation of the talents and abilities of his quondam alumnus, for he sent for Father vanderStraaten and forthwith installed him in the capacity of Lecturer of Philosophy at the Abbey. In the year following, in 1875, a fresh opening was made for his versatility of gifts by his being constituted Principal of St. Anthony's School and Master of Novices in addition to his other duties at the Abbey.

It seems however that St. Anthony's School was not destined to derive much benefit from the well-known attainments of so eminent

and erudite a scholar, for we find him shortly afterwards laying them all at the feet of his Master in devoting himself to the less conspicuous (but none the less meritorious) work of the conversion of souls in that same Master's vineyard—his new sphere of apostolic labours being the district of Pitipane, Negombo.

He was nevertheless a marked man even "among a brotherhood where erudition vast and profound has admittedly been ever a distinctive trait"; and wherever he went thither his fame pursued him. But fame held nought of attraction for him: he preferred to work in obscurity, content that his Master alone should recognize his merits and reward him accordingly.

It lies not within our domain to say what his future career would have been with all those splendid talents and with that vast store of erudition at his disposal. For unfortunately—if we may be permitted to speak in a worldly sense—it is so sadly true that

Our birth is nothing but our death begun;

for

"To every man upon this earth

Death cometh soon or late."

He had not reached his fortieth year when, on the 16th of May, 1879, the talented Priest breathed his last, and his remains were interred in the Church of Our Lady's Purification in Pitipane, Negombo, the last scene of his zealous missionary labours.

MAURICE C.

(*St. Anthony's Annual*)

**Note by Editor:**—A new volume begins with the next number of the Journal. Members are kindly requested to send their subscription of Rs. 5/- for the year July 1944 to June 1945 to Mr. J. R. Toussaint, Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya.

— THE —  
**DUTCH IN CEYLON**

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**VOL. I.**

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

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*Copies may be had at the D. B. U. Hall  
at Rs. 5 each.*