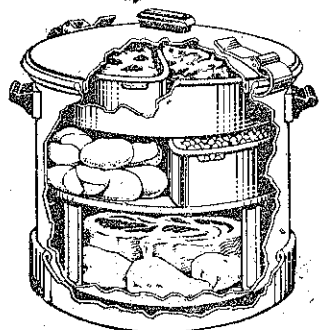


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# Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.



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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.

Published quarterly. Subscription Rs. 10/- per annum, post free. Single copies, if available, Rs. 5/- to be had at the D. B. U. Hall.



DURAND VICTOR ALTENDORFF  
I.S.O., J.P. AND U.M.

# Journal of the - - - Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

VOL. XLI.]

JULY, 1951.

[No. 3

## DURAND VICTOR ALTENDORFF, I.S.O., J.P. AND U.M.

### COMPILER OF ONE HUNDRED FAMILY GENEALOGIES.

On special occasions the great Church of Wolvendaal is filled to overflowing, but usually there are only a few faithful worshippers who attend on a Sunday morning. Two visitors—a Sinhalese lady and gentleman, were among those present one Sunday. After the service they were met by one of the Elders of the Church who soon discovered that the visitors came from families well known to him. A friendly conversation easily followed. The visitors were charmed by his courtesy, and his knowledge of the Church and its attraction.

The Elder was no other than Durand Victor Altendorff, and this example of his general courtesy is by no means exceptional. It is characteristic of the man.

Stern of aspect he may appear. Harsh perhaps in tone, a terror to evil doers, in praise of them who do well. No divergence from the proper course will he allow. This, however, is not to say he is never mistaken, but he is always ready to be convinced and does not bear a grudge when the notes are against him. He has a commanding presence to which the high position he held in the Police Force gives an added dignity. His voice is in keeping with his personal appearance. It is said that a whispered message of his at one end of the Public Hall in Colombo, (once the venue of social functions and wedding receptions in Colombo, now known as the Empire Theatre) was quite distinctly heard at the other end. Socially he is a welcome guest in the cottage of the lowly as well as in the mansions of the highly-placed, and he has a rich store of reminiscences to entertain any company in which he finds himself.

Dipping more intimately into the life-story of this "Matara man" who speaks the Sinhalese language with the fluency and accuracy proverbially associated with Matara, we find he was educated at St. Thomas' College in Mutwal, when Revd. E. F. Miller and his successor Revd. Philip Read, were Wardens of the College. He intended to study engineering in England, but he was destined to fill quite a different role, and on the advice of an old friend of the family, Mr. Lancelot

Holland, then Superintendent of Police, he joined the Police Department, where he held various offices before he was promoted Inspector of Police. As Courts Inspector, he did useful work, and soon proved his capacity for special work. In 1902, he was sent to the Finger Print Bureau in Madras for instruction in the system of identification by finger print. On his return, he introduced the system to Ceylon. Again, in 1905, he was sent to the Police Training School at Vellore in the Madras Presidency preparatory to the establishment of the Training School for the Ceylon Police. The old commodious Dutch building in Prince Street, Pettah, which had been the headquarters of the Ceylon Volunteers, was secured for the purpose. The old Racquet Court, now the Chalmers Granaries, was the venue where the Police recruits paraded and were put through their drill. In 1906, he received his appointment as Assistant Superintendent of Police, Colombo. He next served at Kalutara and Matara, and in 1913 he was brought back to Colombo as Superintendent of Police, Headquarters. This promotion gave Mr. Altendorff great satisfaction as he had now risen to the post held at one time by the friend of his early days, Mr. Holland. For eleven years he discharged the heavy duties of this office, and from 1925 he was appointed to act off and on as Deputy Inspector-General of Police, either in charge of the Provinces or of the Criminal Investigation Department. This, in conjunction with the Imperial Service Order, which was conferred on him the same year, set the seal to a career as honourable as it was distinguished. He retired in 1931.

Next to the deep interest he evinced in the Dutch Reformed Church, the church of his fathers, of which he was a member and some years ago a stalwart mentor of its Consistory; the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon received his chief attention. An original member of the Union, he has been Secretary and Treasurer, and served on the General Committee for years. Nevertheless, his greatest, most notable and valuable contribution to his Community and the Union has been his compilations of the Genealogies of Dutch Burgher families which have long formed one of the principal features of the Journal.—Only those who have attempted the task know what that labour involves. It is not so difficult to get the right names of one's father and grand-father—but then comes the real trouble. Inquiries have to be made, faded and often torn records and registers have to be searched in various old churches, musty, old family papers have to be verified. The results have finally to be put together in order.

It is difficult to imagine anyone who is not genuinely and keenly interested in the work going through all the trouble which the drawing up of a family genealogy involves. Hence, it is no slight credit to Mr. D. V. Altendorff that he made this his occupation and hobby in retirement, and that he has since 1933, compiled no fewer than 100 genealogies of families. These have from time to time been printed in the Journal.

The question might well be asked, as it often is: "What purpose do these family genealogies serve?" Time was, when it was commonplace to claim no more value and significance for them beyond that

they were the product of a medieval exercise which served as a shoe-horn to shallow minds to work up long memories.—But today, even in Ceylon—the oasis of stability in the troubled Asian scene, the earlier genealogical data connecting families with the original settler are frequently sought for establishing citizenship, or for supporting travel and emigration regulations.—

Happily there is even more proof, if proof be needed of the wide demand and worth of these family genealogies. In the following letter to the President of the Dutch Burgher Union we certainly have both an unostentatious and timely tribute:—

Kuala Lumpur,  
Federation of Malaya.  
10th February, 1951.

Dear Sir,

Mr. D. V. Altendorff of Colombo, who no doubt is well-known to you, recently was instrumental in furnishing me with certain important information which has, and will prove most helpful to both my family and myself.

His labours in this direction were without any monetary consideration despite the fact that such information is usually furnished in other countries at great cost.

Others have also benefitted by this gentleman's most noble gesture which bespeaks true character and kindness of a distinguished and esteemed personality of your island.

The sentiments expressed above are shared by many and perhaps the only practical manner in which I, for one, can show some appreciation is to forward to you the enclosed draft for Rupees 50 as a donation to meet the costs of printing the Union's Journal.

Please accept it with my very best wishes of success.

Yours faithfully,  
Sgd. W. F. C. GRENIER.

Therefore, to merely say that Mr. Altendorff has done a service and an honorary one at that, to the Community, is to greatly understate the case. He has placed the Dutch Burgher Union and many Dutch-descended citizens resident in Ceylon and out of the Island, under an obligation that cannot be repaid.

Our Genealogist claims that he has several more genealogies in the process of compilation. We cannot therefore accept that his task is over. Hence, while we express gratitude to him for what he has already accomplished, we sincerely wish him more power to his elbow.

## BALDAEUS AND HIS BOOK

## PREFACE.

It would rightly be considered strange if anybody acquainted with the history of Ceylon, was to admit ignorance of Baldaeus and his Book. What Ribeiro did to shed light on the sixteenth century history of the Island from the Portuguese angle, Baldaeus achieved on behalf of his countrymen—the Dutch, in the seventh century.

Baldaeus' book, to the writing of which the author had devoted what proved to be the last five years of his life, appeared early in 1672 in the form of a folio volume, divided into three parts with separate pagination. In the Preface, Baldaeus explains how, when he was appointed as a minister "to the heathen", he took pains "to learn their language, customs, religious beliefs etc. being stimulated thereto... largely by the example of Xavier and other Romish missionaries." He then explains in the following sentences, how he came to write his book:—

Discreet Reader, the work of Religion being thus our chief object, I found it advisable in connection therewith for the needful knowledge of the countries... to describe them also, the more so, in that, in our searching through various writings... I found among them so many noteworthy things, relating to the circumstances of East-India besides Diaries of events that had taken place. Maps and views of countries, Towns, Peoples etc. that I took courage to relate something of the particulars of these things also, the more so, in that I myself having lived in and travelled through many places and participated in famous Sieges and Military expeditions could as eye and ear-witness speak of the aforesaid matters with the more truth, and since I specially had the best knowledge of the coasts of *Malabar* and *Choromandel*, as well as the mighty *Island of Ceylon* where I resided a considerable time, it seemed to me most advisable to confine my description to these and the next bordering Kingdoms...

It is the second part of the book consisting of 51 chapters contained in 240 pages that refers to Ceylon. D. W. Ferguson, summarised and annotates this part of the book as follows: (a)

"The first chapter gives a brief description of Ceylon, and relates the early history of the island, from the time of its colonisation by the Chinese! (b) Chapter II to VI describe the events that occurred in Ceylon from the arrival of the Portuguese down to the beginning of the 17th century, when the Dutch made their first appearance in the island. The chronology of this portion is very confused and unreliable, and there are many points where the

(a) Ceylon Literary Register (Monthly), Volume III (new series) January—December 1895.

(b) It is doubtless owing to this error, first put into circulation by Portuguese writers, that the earlier illustrations in this part represent the Sinhalese and their buildings with a purely Chinese aspect.

narrative varies from Portuguese accounts. The visit of Spilbergen to Ceylon is mentioned in a few lines at the end of the sixth chapter, the reader being referred for fuller details to the printed journal. (c) Chapter VII describes the visit of Sebald de Weert to Ceylon, his murder, and the death of "Don Jon". The next chapter relates the disturbances following this event, and the succession to the throne of Senerat; ending up by describing the mission of Pieter Both to the East, with letters from the States-General Prince Maurice of Nassau to the various native potentates asking for alliances and treaties. In chapter IX the letters to the King of Ceylon are given. Chapter X to XVI describe the events that occurred in the Kandyan kingdom while Boschhouwer was resident there: the minute details given being probably taken from Boschhouwer's own written reports. (d)

Chapter XVII contained originally a brief account of Boschhouwer's return to Europe, and the disastrous expedition of the Danes to Ceylon, with Boschhouwer's own death; the chapter ending with the translation of the letter sent by Raja Sinha II to the Dutch in 1686. But between these two parts of the chapter an insertion of eight pages (e) had been made, in which the Danish mission is described at greater length; the two disastrous defeats of the Portuguese under Constantino de Sa and Diogo de Melo are related; and Raja Sinha's letter to the Dutch and the resultant embassy are treated of. A short chapter has thus been converted into a very lengthy one, and events related in the succeeding chapters are here repeated. (f) Chapter XVIII gives the reply of the Dutch Governor-General to the Kandyan King, and the letter of the latter to the Admiral of the Dutch fleet off Goa. Chapter XIX describes the naval battle off Goa between the Dutch and Portuguese fleets. Chapter XX gives the reply of Admiral Westerwold to Raja Sinha, and relates the defeat of the Portuguese under Diogo de Melo. In chapter XXI is described the expedition of Admiral Westerwold to Ceylon, and the capture of Batticaloa; and the terms of the treaty made with Raja Sinha are given in full. In chapter XXII the capture of Galle by Coster is described; and then, *per saltum*, the writer passes to the siege and surrender of Kalutara

(c) In this Baldaeus presents a contrast to Valentyn, who has appropriated wholesale from the Journal in question, without the slightest acknowledgment. (See however, further on).

(d) This seems to be confirmed by a reference in chap. XLIX to a statement of Boschhouwer's regarding cobra and mongoose fights. I know of no printed work containing Boschhouwer's account of his Ceylon experiences.

(e) As stated above, these pages are unnumbered. In the heading of these pages, the spellings *Boschryvinge* and *Eylandt* take the place of *Beschryvinge* and *Eyland* which are found throughout the rest of the book. Boschhouwer's name also is here spelt *Boshouwer*.

(f) In the German version (followed by the English translator) the matter in this chapter has been somewhat re-arranged, and it has been divided into two chapters. Hence the numbers of the chapters after XVII in the German and English versions do not correspond with those in the Dutch original.



in 1655. For the compilation of the foregoing chapters Baldaeus evidently had placed at his disposal various official documents; and this was certainly the case with regard to chapters XXIII to XXXVIII, in which the siege of Colombo by the Dutch is narrated with such detail, that, as above mentioned, Veth fallen has into the very natural error of supposing that Baldaeus was an eye-witness of the events. Of the many letters from Raja Sinha of which he gives translations in these chapters, the originals of several are still in the Government Record Office in Colombo. In chapter XXXIX is described the origin of Colombo, with the arrival of the Portuguese and their subsequent contests with the natives; the chapter ending with another letter from Raja Sinha. Chapter XL describes the rupture between the Kandyan King and the Dutch, with resultant events; and the first part of chapter XLI narrates other events subsequent to the capture of Colombo. In the latter part of this chapter, however, the writer harks back, and describes briefly the capture and recapture of Negombo, the murder of Coster, and other events down to the year 1645. (g) This latter part of chapter XLI and the first two-thirds of chapter XLII in which is given a summary of the events that occurred in Ceylon from 1645 to 1655 are taken bodily, with only the change of a word here and there, from Adrian van der Meyden's letter of 20th September 1660 to the Council at Batavia. (h) In the concluding portion of this chapter Baldaeus describes the capture of Maunur, at which he was present. The first part of chapter XLIII describes Mannar and the work of the Reformed Church there; while the second half proceeds to narrate the siege of Jaffna, the description of which is continued in the first part of chapter XLIV; the writer then beginning a detailed description of the Jaffna Peninsula and adjacent islands, the Christian work there and the customs of the people, which extends to chapter XLVII. In the last part of this chapter Trincomalee is dealt with. In chapter XLVIII the religion and customs of the Sinhalese are described: a great portion being "conveyed" from the pages of the Spilbergen Journal, without acknowledgment, I am sorry to say. Chapter XLIX treats of the flora of Ceylon (especially cinnamon); chapter L of its fauna; and chapter LI of its reptilia, minerals, fishes, and marine products."

"This second part of Baldaeus's work is illustrated with a portrait of General Hulft, a map of Ceylon, and one of the Jaffna peninsula and plans or views of Colombo, Negombo, Galle, Jaffna, Mannar, Batticaloa, and the various towns or villages in the Jaffna Peninsula where were churches under the author's supervision; a representation of the meeting between Raja Sinha and Hulft, another of horse-catching in Jaffna, and a third of an elephant

(g) In this part of his work, as in the first, Baldaeus writes from a geographical and not from a historical point of view; so that, if the reader wishes to follow the events narrated in their proper sequence, he has to turn backwards and forwards many times.

(h) As given in Valentyn, Ceylon pp. 141—148 (Compare pages 142—145 of the letter with pages 141—147 of the Dutch original of Baldaeus).

kraal; all of these being printed on 18 single or double page separate sheets. In addition to these there are 84 copper-plate engravings scattered throughout the text. The portrait of General Hulft is engraved by Blooteling from a painting by Govaert Flinck, a well-known Dutch artist. (i) Below the portrait are engraved the words "De Ed. Hr. Gerard Hulft, Eerste Raedt en Directeur Generael van Indien, Opper Bevelhebber over de Krygs-Macht soo te Water als te Lande afgesonden na Ceylon en de Kuste van Indien." Then follows a verse of six lines by the famous Dutch poet Vonnell referring to Hulft's death before Colombo. (j) The map of Ceylon does not show any very great advance on earlier ones, except that an attempt (not always successful) has been made to show the various korales in the south-western portion of the island. The name of the cartographer is not given; but the title "Insula Ceylon olim Taprobana; nunc Incolis Lankawa"—in engraved in the left upper corner on a kind of monument, on one side of which stands a Sinhalese bearing a pingo with a bale of cinnamon slung at each end, on the top a naked little black boy with two more bales of cinnamon, and behind it an elephant. (k) The map of the Jaffna peninsula and the adjacent islands is chiefly interesting as being the first (so far as I know) separate map on an enlarged scale of this portion of Ceylon. The plans of Colombo, Negombo etc., are interesting, especially the one showing the position of the Dutch forces at the siege of Colombo. But a large proportion of the illustrations were certainly not "drawn from life in India itself," as the title-page would have one believe; being merely the fancies of the artist, whose name, by the way, never appears." (l)

Shortly after the publication of the original work, and in the same year (1672) a German translation of Baldaeus' work in Dutch made its appearance. This too was in folio form, but contained no translator's name. In his review, referred to earlier, D. W. Ferguson observes: "It is curious that, while neither the Dutch original nor the German versions of Baldaeus' work has ever been reprinted, the English translation was printed and re-printed four times within fifty years." In each case this translation formed the last

(i) He was one of Rembrandt's pupils, and died in 1660 (See Van der Aa, op. cit.)

(j) Valentyn (Ceylon, p. 140) quotes this verse from Vondel's *Gedichten* op. Afbecdingen, p. 557. For other verses by Vondel on Hulft, including the poem in which the poet recounts a dream in which he foresaw the fate of the general, see Valentyn, *Levens der Opper-Landvoogden*, pp. 299—302. (See also C.B.R.A.S.Jl., vol XI, p. 148).

(k) The map prefixed to Robert Knox's *Historical Relation of the Island Ceylon* is a reproduction of this one with a few alterations in the maritime districts, and an entire reconstruction of the central portion. The title, also, is changed to "A new map of the Kingdom of Candy Uda, in the Island of Ceylon." In the German, Dutch, and French translations of Knox, and in Reland's *Diss. Misc. (u.s.)*, the latter map is represented with slight alterations in the title etc.

(l) One of the most absurdly incorrect of these illustrations is that representing stripping the bark from huge trees, supposed to be cinnamon.

part of Volume III of Churchill's collection of *Voyages, and Travels*, the first edition of which was published in 1704 in five volumes.

The title page of the English edition, as quoted, reads:—

"A true and exact Description of the most celebrated East India Coasts of Malabar and Coromandel. As also of the Isle of Ceylon. With all the adjacent Kingdoms, Principalities, Provinces, Cities, Chief Harbours, Structures, Pagan Temples, Products and living Creatures. The Manners, Habits, Oeconomies and Ceremonies of the Inhabitants; as likewise the most remarkable Warlike Exploits, Sieges, Sea and Field-Engagements betwix the Portuguese and Dutch; with their Traffic and Commerce. The whole adorn'd with new Maps and Draughts of the chief Cities, Ports, Habits, Living Creatures, Fruits etc., of the product of the Indies, drawn to the Life, and cut in Copper Plates. Also a most circumstantial and Compleat Account of the Idolatry of the Pagans in the East Indies, the Malabars, Benjans Gentives, Brabmans, etc, taken partly from their own Vedam or Law-Book, and Authentick Manuscripts, partly from frequent conversation with their Priests and Divines: With their Draughts of their Idols, done after their Originals. By PHILIP BALDAEUS, Minister of the Word of God in Ceylon Translated from the HIGH DUTCH printed at Amsterdam. 1672".

The translation is said by Ferguson to be often "delightfully quaint but has unfortunately in many places grievously misinterpreted the *High Dutch* and in some cases has the presumption to make additions or alterations exposing the translator's ignorance of oriental words and customs." (m).

The second edition of Churchill's *Voyages and Travels* appeared in 1782, the third and fourth editions in 1745 and 1752 with rearrangement of maps, charts and pages. Since then, to the knowledge of the writer there has been no reprint of Baldaeus' Book in any language, in its entirety.

Ferguson mentions two attempts which were subsequently made to translate Baldaeus' Book in part. In 1816, the Wesleyan Mission Press brought out: "A short account of Jaffnapatnam in the Island of Ceylon as it was published in the Dutch in 1672". No copy of this translation can be traced. The other attempt to render Baldaeus' in English is said to have been included in Barrows collection of *Voyages* (1756—1765).

What is of greater importance is Ferguson's passing reference to an entry on his list of writers on Ceylon: "Brohier, Peter, (n) translated portions of the Revd. Philip Baldaeus' description of Ceylon, pamphlet,

(m) Many examples of these blunders are quoted by Ferguson, *Cey. Lit. Register*, Vol. 3, 1895, page 179 et seq.

(n) Peter Isaac John Brohier, the fourth son of Captain John Brohier, was born in Jaffna in 1792. In later years he entered the Government Service and was employed in the office of the Controller of Revenue, Colombo.

*Ceylon Times Press*." He adds, "I have not seen this pamphlet so can give no details regarding it."

Recent efforts made to trace a copy of the pamphlet have proved unsuccessful but the search has not been in vain for it has revealed an interesting story kindled by a note written by R. A. Brohier (Senior), which was found with other family papers on his demise in 1915. The note read as follows:—

"After my father (Peter Issac John Brohier) retired from the public service, he spent his time for years in making a translation of Baldaeus' History of Ceylon. The draft translation was revised by Johnny (J. B. Siebel)—after which he fair copied it. It was written in demy sheets of paper and the volume was some five fingers thick.

After he had completed the work, he was told that there was a translation of the work—rightly or wrongly, is not known.

I took the volume to the office and lost sight of it. I have an impression it was borrowed by a friend for his son's perusal—if so it was never returned."

About the same time that the forementioned reference to the misplacement of the document was written, Ferguson stated in his review of Baldaeus' work (o) that:

"A translation of the part referring to Ceylon by a Burgher gentlemen was presented by Mr. Advocate Weinman to the Ceylon Asiatic Society some years earlier, but this has not been printed."

These inter-related entires, would, if they were noticed by the respective writers at the time they were made, have helped to the identification of the translator of the manuscript presented to the Royal Asiatic Society. Nothing however happened until in 1937. The writer of this preface, on reading Ferguson's note, examined the manuscript referred to, and was able to leave the identity of the translator no longer in doubt.

This, nevertheless, was not the only evidence of Peter Brohier's scholarship and labours as a translator. The original work by Baldaeus, contains an appendix of 28 pages which is a Dutch translation of a document in Portuguese, placed in the hands of Baldaeus by Mattheus van den Brouk (or Brouck), after his work had been printed off. It is a day to day account of the Siege of Colombo by the Dutch written by a Portuguese who sustained it. It would appear that van den Brouk, who when he handed this document to Baldaeus was a Director of the Company for the city of Dordrecht, obtained it during the 22 years of service he put in abroad under the Dutch East India Company. The only published English rendering of the document is a summarised version in Churchill's Collection of *Voyages and travels*.

(o) The Monthly Lit. Register, Vol. III (1895, p. 180).

This Appendix to Baldeaus' Book was also translated from Dutch into English by Peter Brohier. The manuscript copy of it is in the custody of the writer. Hence, there was a complete English translation, in manuscript, of the portions of Baldeaus' commentary of events and description of Ceylon, which had long languished un-noticed although a properly edited and correct translation of the portion of Baldeaus' work referring to Ceylon, is to this day a desideratum. Undoubtedly here were two manuscripts which, if printed, would prove to be of value and interest to the student of the Dutch Period in Ceylon and the historian.

It was initially concerning the accuracy and value of the Manuscript translation of the Siege of Colombo as shown in the Appendix of Baldeaus' Book that the writer sought the opinion of that historian and scholar, the late Father S. G. Perera, S.J. Father Perera's reply appears below, unabridged, in the light of its importance to all students of history, and in justification for the action now being taken to print this manuscript as a serial in the Journal.

St. Aloysius' College,  
GALLE.

9, November, 1926.

Dear Mr. Brohier,

I had examined your Mss. and was thinking of inviting you to come over and see me at Galle one day, if you happen to come this side, in order to show you Baldeus and the translation of Churchill, when your reminder reached me.

Your Mss is a translation of Baldeus. Baldeus gives a Dutch translation of a Portuguese account of the siege communicated to him after he had written his own account of it. It is given in a sort of appendix, and it is this that has been translated.

A translation of this account would indeed be very valuable, as the only existing translation (in Churchill's collection of Voyages) is only a summary. But the circumstances that give value to a translation has changed considerably since your Mss was written. At the time your translation was made little was known of the siege, and the most important thing was to know the events and progress of the siege. But now we have several accounts of the siege available in English, and the value of a translation of Baldeus lies in the fact that it enables us to check, confirm or complete other accounts. For this purpose the translation must be above all exact and as literal as possible.

Thus your Mss, though a very good translation in many respects, must be revised to meet modern requirements. To explain what I mean. Proper names, for instance, must be given exactly as in the original, and not modernised. The modern rendering might be given in a note, but the text must preserve the original. Hence "Candea" must remain and not be changed to Kandy, Culture, not Kalutura. Antonio de Souza Continho is written "Antonio Zoon Coutinho", which is probably a mistake of the copyist. And so of the other names.

There are likewise some omissions. An important para relating to siege of Culture has been omitted; likewise some information given about Alvares Boralho. All these must be carefully supplied.

On the other hand the translation has expressed the sense of the original in a roundabout and literary style which must be sedulously pruned. For example, when the original says that "on account of the heavy rain and floods they had to return to Negombo", the translation expresses it "the inundations caused by the heavy rains which had preceeded proving an insuperable bar to their progress by that route they were reduced..." Or when the text says "three batteries mounted with cannon and a mortar" the translation expands it into "cannon which they had rendered more effective by the addition of... On the other hand "hier liet het sterslyke leven" is rendered "died about this time," which is misleading.

These, I mention to give you an example of the kind of revision that it must undergo before being printed. There are some mistakes due evidently to the copyist like "seven" for "eleven", which can be corrected by comparing with the Dutch.

Thus in my opinion

(1) this translation will be a very valuable one,

(2) but it must be thoroughly revised by a competent person.

The notes do not appear to be of any special value as they are taken mostly from Baldeus' own description and other sources which are now available in English. But if the notes are retained, they must be revised and brought up to date.

I am sure that some one familiar with old Dutch can revise the translation and make it worth printing. Mr. Reimers, Mr. Anthoniz or Mr. C. E. de Vos of Galle, will be the best.

I am returning your Mss by registered post.

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. S. G. PERERA,

Unfortunately, the good advice proffered by Father Perera was not acted upon immediately and in consequence matters lay dormant for some time. The discovery of the manuscript in the Society's library re-kindled interest, and the subject once again came to be reviewed from another angle. This is what Father Perera wrote a decade later.

ST. ALOYSIUS' COLLEGE,

Galle,

Ceylon.

28 December, 1937.

Dear Mr. Brohier,

I am exceedingly sorry for the delay in writing to you about the manuscript translation of Baldeaus, which Mr. Weinman very kindly loaned to me.

I should recommend you to invite the R.A.S. to publish this translation in a Journal of the RAS. CB. As it is we have so far no translation of Baldaeus. The translation in Churchill's Collection of Voyages III is not from the Dutch of Baldaeus but from a German version of it. Moreover Churchill's translation is only a summary one, omitting and abbreviating sentences. Your manuscript on the other hand is a complete translation. No doubt it is in the style of the last century and someone will have to edit, this editing consisting chiefly in spelling proper names as in the original and occasionally changing the roundabout paraphrases into direct and literal rendering. This you can well do yourself, or you might possibly invite Miss Juriaansz to do it. I shall be quite ready to help.

In case the RAS undertakes to publish this Ms. I would also recommend you to include your other MS translation of the Siege of Colombo. It is, as you know, a Portuguese original done into Dutch by Baldaeus. This Portuguese original is now in the Ajuda Library of Lisbon (52-viii-9) and there is a copy in the library of the Academia das sciencias (Frades No. 252). As this text has now been printed I shall be able to help the Editor.

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. S. G. PERERA.

So much for the story. For several reasons which would unnecessarily lengthen this Preface if related, the labour of editing these manuscripts for printing, as suggested by Father Perera, has remained undone. Being mindful, however, of the very decided views concerning printing them, which he never failed to stress whenever the writer met him, an effort is now being made to edit and reprint the documentary record of the Siege of Colombo in the pages of the Journal.

Behind this preliminary venture their lies the hope that the publication of this manuscript will kindle interest and lead to the publication of the other translation by Peter Brohier in the Journal of the Ceylon branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.

A few other details call for mention. No attempt has been made to take unwarrantable liberties with the translation. It has been printed, as recorded, and continues to express the sense of the original in a roundabout and literary style. It would appear more fitting to leave sedulous pruning to the student and research scholar who find in the rendering, reason for criticism and correction.

The proper names have been given exactly as in the original and not modernised. Corrections, and correct rendering of small but obvious mistakes in the translation have been made by Dr. J. R. Blaze.

R. L. B.

## TRANSLATION FROM BALDAEUS BOOK.

Manuscript Dated 22nd January 1836.

By Peter Brohier.

### APPENDIX.

#### The Siege of Colombo described by the Portuguese.

After our description of Ceilon was already printed, there came into our hands an authentic, exact and trustworthy narrative of the siege of Colombo, written in the Portuguese by the besieged themselves, through Mr. Matheus van den Broek, late Councillor-in-Ordinary of India, and at present Director of the East India Company on behalf of the town of Dordrecht; upon whose judgment we too, as lovers of accuracy, have desired to pass on the above-named narrative; he being one who, considering his high appointment and well-known services in East India and the conquest of Brasyl, has acquired a detailed knowledge of Portuguese affairs. The reader has therefore to thank the kindness of that gentleman that he can satisfy his curiosity in being able to judge the truth of this memorable siege with understanding, and to trace its course in the writings of both friends and foes, a contingency desired and unfulfilled for settling the fundamental differences of many histories. The afore-mentioned document put word for word into Dutch reads as follows:—

A true account of the siege of *Colombo*, laid both by *Raja Singa* the King of *Candea*, as well as by the *Hollanders*, containing the transactions from the period of its commencement, till the surrender of the Fortrees—*Antonio de Souza Coutinho* being at this eventful period, Captain General in command of the Island of Ceylon.

It was on the 1st of September A.D. 1655 that ten Dutch ships came anchor at the Bar of *Negumbo*, two ships remaining on a cruise at a distance,\* the disembarkation of Troops soon followed consisting of seven companies strong, of 80 men each; these having readily formed a junction with an immense body of Blacks, ventured an approach by the course of the *Pass Betal*, but the inundation caused by the heavy rains which had preceded proving an insuperable bar to their progress by that route, they were reduced to the necessity of retracing their way back to *Negumbo*.

\* At this period Galle was the seat of the Dutch powers in Ceylon which had been in their possession for 15 years, that Fortress having been taken by storm on the 13th March 1640 by Willem Jacobs Costa, after a most gallant and vigorous resistance on the part of the Portuguese which lasted for the space of an hour and a half.



*Gerard Hulst*, the Commander in Chief of the Dutch Forces, perceiving the difficulties which obstructed his advance in that quarter judged it expedient to order his Troops, and such part of his reserve as had remained with him at *Negumbo*, to take ship again, and the whole body accordingly re-embarked and the ten ships aforementioned weighed anchor, and taking in company the other two which had since borne down, hove to before *Columbo*.

At this time our port was fortunately favoured with the safe arrival of three Galliot from Cochin replete with provisions, which were consigned to our relief by *Simon Gomes de Silva* Commanding that City, a most faithful and zealous servant of this Crown.

Our General *Coutinho* deliberating on the means of preserving *Kalutara* judged it expedient to apply the rice obtained from the above arrivals to the relief of that Garrison, which in effect was reduced to the very extreme of famine, unfortunately however the swell and violence of the intersecting streams proved an obstruction to the transport of this very indispensable supply.

On the 22nd of the same month our supply from *Tutecoryn* likewise followed which consisted of Twenty-three (23) trading sail under the direction of *Nicolaas de Moura*, Commander, and for this importation in *Columbo* we are chiefly indebted to the highly adventurous spirit of the Marchants who found a stimulus in our expedient of throwing open this trade to the public.

The Enemy having left Six Bottoms in the road of *Columbo*, bore away with the remaining squadron to *Caleture*. *Caspar Figueira de Serpe*, who was at this period in command of a Force engaged in the Frontiers and the most formidable places in hostile operations against the King of *Candea*, now received orders from our Captain General to immediately withdraw from camp the Troops under his Command and to concentrate them at Head Quarters and he accordingly returned to *Colombo* on the 7th of October following.

Meanwhile precautionary measures were also adopted in respect of securing the possessions beyond the limits of the town. *Francisco Antunes* the highly renowned *Dissave*, was placed under orders to move with his troops to Mature, and *Alvares Rodrigo Borralho*, with three Companies, to reconnoitre the Force as well as to anticipate the designs of the Enemy who had invaded *Caleture* and besieged that Fortress—from the 23rd September to the 15th of October, having thrown up against it three Batteries, mounted with Cannon, which they had rendered more efficient by the addition of a Mortar.

Our Captain General aware of the straits and circumstances of this post lost no time in despatching Succor to it with a supply of all necessities for the relief of the unfortunate besieged, availing himself of the services of the aforementioned *Nicolaas de Moura* and of the men under him, who also had in train a considerable

**Troop of Blacks**—an auxiliary body levied and afforded by the *Dissave* of *Negumbo*, Manuel Gil, a most valuable servant of the Crown as well as an eminent military character, but whose ultimate requital for all his loyal services and gallant deeds which distinguished him for a long succession of years was no better than that of having to weigh in his own person a heavy load of bullets, brought on by his zeal for the service in the cause of Ceylon.

This intrepid Officer attempting to cross the river with twelve of his men (the boat not admitting of more) was met from the opposite bank by a group of Archers, which obliged him to fall back with the loss of a few men. This encounter gave occasion to the Senior Officer in command of the Detail to order a retreat, and seek safety in precipitate flight much against the views of Captain *Domingos Coelho de Alla*, who thought it had been advisable for them to have proceeded higher up to the pass of *Paneture* to obviate all hostile encounters. During this occasion *Alvares Rodrigues de Borralho* appeared to have distinguished himself with signal bravery, frequently venturing, amidst all dangers the conveyance of reports to the Senior Officer Commanding, at the same time communicating his orders as to further proceedings until the party had regained the walls of the Town.

Our General with his Council now came to the resolution of investing *Caleture* with a superior force, to accomplish which *Caspar Figueira* the Superior Officer or Second in Command was ordered to prepare and hold himself in readiness with the whole of the Troops under him; and as at this juncture four Galliot ordered by the Count and Viceroy had just arrived from Goa, the formation of an Army 6 hundred (600) strong was readily made up, and this force was constituted exclusively of Portuguese having in addition a considerable band of *Cingalezen* adherents. The Enemy's Force consisted of Three thousand (3,000) Europeans, a numerous body of *Bandanese* with a swarm of *Cingalezen* the whole Force from *Candea* having come to their aid.

With the above detail *Caspar Figueira* hastened his march on the 16th of October and halted at night within two miles of the Town,—having there gained information as to how the enemy had crossed the Pass, being 3 Companies strong. To oppose this a force of 6 Companies was told off under the orders of *Domingo Sarmiento*, and *Francisco Antunes* who falling in with the invading troops at night—in bright moonlight—immediately entered into action with the utmost confidence, little suspecting the superiority of the force in opposition, the idea being that it consisted but of 3 Companies, strong 80 men each, and thus on a parity of contest, but the event soon proved that the adverse troops were far disproportionate. The Enemy having broken through our lines soon killed a good number of our men. *Figueira* who had the Reserve with him, glowing with ardent impatience now rushed into the conflict with little arrogance, quite unconscious of the inequality of Force for the enemy consisted of 5 Battalions which forming themselves into two wings kept in

warm play three pieces of the Prince's Artillery against our body, which threw the men into the utmost dismay and confusion. *Figueira* on perceiving the discomfiture of his troops commanded his Sergeant Major *Manoel Cabrira* to rally and reform the men, with a view to a second combat, especially since the adverse party seemed to be without order and preparing for a retreat; but viewing soon how the flower of his warriors, and those who would have seconded his efforts had been beaten and were promiscuously lying dead or wounded on the field, and the most part of the Recruits deserted into the jungles who could not be brought back to their posts either by entreaties, threats or the menaces of the sword itself; felt himself so far abandoned that no alternative now remained, but that of yielding to the misfortune—suspending therefore his further engagement he turned his attention to the gathering and quartering of his wounded among whom were found the gallant Captain *Sebastian Pereira* who subsequently remained in the second storm, and *Joseph Antunes*, these Captains were the only two who survived out of eleven leading officers, who entered upon the unfortunate action. The following also escaped viz Captains *Joan Cordeiro*, *Manoel Fernandes de Miranda*, *Manoel De Santiago Garcia*, and 200 rank and file. Now when this brow-beaten remnant had re-entered the Town, so dismal and piercing were the cries and lamentations that were echoed throughout the place from the united voices of women mingled with those of children, that nothing could have created a perturbation equal to it, in fact the event tended seriously to distract every deliberative mind since all measures were now counted but lost, the chief dependence and hope having rested on the Force that had just been beaten. Hereupon the Town Gates were ordered to be closed and secured, with peremptory orders from the General that none should venture beyond the confines of their abodes without being properly armed for defence. He judged it also expedient that this state of affairs should be made known to the Court at Goa. *Damian Vieira*, Jesuit, and *Manoel Saraiva*, a loyal settler of *Mannar*, having offered their services for this purpose, they were entrusted with the report of the same accordingly but the latter having quitted Colombo thought it proper to remain snug in his own quarters, and to forward the dispatches to *Antonio Amaral De Meneses* in Command of *Jaffnapatam*. Had this envoy been visited with the punishment due to such dereliction of trust, it would have afforded a useful and exemplary lesson to others. The numerous wounded meanwhile had filled the wards of the Hospital—poor souls, how distant was their idea that their present affliction was but the precursor of still harder miseries which hovered over them, and of which we shall now venture but a short summary, so much at least, as from the texture one may learn of the value of the cloth, as from the claws, the power of the lion. In all these calamities, the sympathies of Brother *Golsal*, *Augustino* monk, in particular appeared to have outstripped the rest, by his attentions towards the wretched sufferers, by the spontaneous ministrations of his office to their relief which he continued to display with all diligence

in the Hospital, where a greater number of the soldiers were perishing from the want of requisite remedies than were destroyed in conflict and action. The loss of the Dutch was comparatively insignificant with the exception of the wound received by *Jan van der Laan*, (a mortal enemy of the Portuguese nation) the bare mention of which name could not be endured by them. He received a wound in the cheek and as this Heretic with his experience swayed an absolute control over all matters, he had ample scope to wreak vengeance against our poor soldiers who had retreated and sought refuge in the jungles and forests to evade the first fury and rage of the boisterous enemy. All who had the misfortune to fall into the hands of this savage were summarily put to the sword and this was done in the most deliberate manner and with the greatest sang froid in bodies of 20 or 30 at a time, remarking at the same time that if God had placed the lives of the Portuguese in His hands, he would with one single stroke of His sword hack the whole of them to pieces. On the contrary the noble breast of the General *Gerard Hulft* glowed with such feelings of compassion that this bloody carnage proved detestable to him, so much so that he generously granted quarter to certain of our recruits, but the Heretic *Jan van der Laan* tried his utmost to dissuade the General from all views of clemency, alleging with the bitterest slander that the Portuguese from a deep rooted animosity was bent on an indiscriminate slaughter of all the Dutch who fell into their hands without evincing the least sense of mercy; but all his deep laid allegations to fan the flame of resentment nevertheless proved but fuel to the General's pity which actually inclined him to most generously spare the lives of sixty recruits known by the appellation of *Renois*.

*Francisco Antunes* the celebrated guide of the Forests of Ceylon about this time died—he had won renown by numerous exploits, and though often in peril of his life had hitherto eluded the cruel grasp of death, and a lonely grave at last became the monument of one whose high deserts merited the erection of a Mausoleum to perpetuate his memory. †

This unfortunate defeat rendered the Hollander not only the undisputed master of the field, but it eventually led to the conquest of the whole Island, for the loss of *Caleture* ‡ soon following nothing remained, but the prospect of soon finding *Columbo* reduced by famine and all its attendant evils.

(To be Continued.)

† When the Dutch got intelligence of the Capture of this famous Guide who fell into the hands of their Lascareens, an escort was despatched for his safe conveyance into their camp, but either from the dread of the punishment that awaited him, or from other causes it happened that he died on the way, and his remains were brought to view at the Camp and buried.

‡ Director General *Hulft*, and the Hon'ble the Governor *Adrian Vander Meyden* had entered the fort (after its fall) and surveyed its strength, they expressed great admiration at its fastness, and of the undaunted resolution of storming it. The Merchant *Usbrandt Godskens* was named Governor of *Kalutara* who remained there with one company of soldiers.

## GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF LOFTUS OF CEYLON

(Compiled by Mr. D. V. Attendorff)

### I

Valentine Loftus married Nantze Smith, and he had by her—

- 1 Willem, baptized 20th January 1799.
- 2 John, who follows under II.
- 3 George, who follows under III.

### II

John Loftus, Sub-Assistant in the Ceylon Medical Department, married:—

- (a) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 26th December, 1823, Anna Maria Blume, daughter of Benjamin Adriaan Blume and Engeltina Pegalotte.
- (b) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Galle, 31st March 1833, Charlotta Huybertsz.

Of the first marriage, he had by her—

- 1 Edmund, born 20th July 1825.
- 2 Seraphina Magdalena, born 27th September 1826, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 27th July 1843, Dionysius Adrianus de Kretser, born 9th May 1821, son of Adrianus Henricus (Hermanus) de Kretser and Johanna Matthysz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 19).
- 3 Louisa Catharina, born 22nd December 1827, died 30th September 1902, married at Utuwankande, 26th January 1845, James Harris Brohier, Surveyor, born 1st April 1823, died 21st June 1870, son of Nathaniel Godfried Pierce Brohier, and Wilhelmina Gertruida Petronella Spaar. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, page 122, and Vol. XXXI, pages 197 and 199).
- 4 Henrietta Maria, born 1831, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 16th June 1853, Francis Matthew Koster, born 1826, son of Pieter Hendrik Koster and Petronella Wilhelmina de Heer.

Of the second marriage, he had—

- 5 John Andrew, born 18th February 1834.

### III

George Loftus, Surgeon, Ceylon Medical Department, died 9th January 1876, married at Kandy, 8th May 1837, Mary Gill, born 18th November 1817, died 15th March 1853, daughter of Lieutenant John Gill of the 3rd Ceylon Regiment. He had by her—

- 1 Amelia Gertrude, born 1841, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Galle, 16th January 1867, Clement Edmund Smith, born 29th April 1843, son of Arnoldus Everhardus Smith, and Arnoldina Cornelia Poulier. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, pages 22 and 102).
- 2 Thomas Richard Edwin, who follows under IV.
- 3 Sarah Matilda Georgiana, born 10th August 1850, died 13th July 1871, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 10th May 1869, Arnold Michael Fernando, born 1842, son of Henricus Marcianus Fernando and Elizabeth Foressie.

### IV

Thomas Richford Edwin Loftus, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Ceylon Medical Department, born 8th October 1847, died 2nd October 1875, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 30th April 1873, Emmeline Batta, born 4th July 1850, died 20th April 1894, daughter of John Gray Batta and Johanna Henrietta Elizabeth Ludekens. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, page 169). He had by her—

- 1 Thomas Richford Edwin, who follows under V.

### V

Thomas Richford Edwin Loftus, Ceylon Civil Service, born 11th February 1876, died 26th December 1941, married in All Saints' Church, Borella, 19th January 1898, Ludgarde Clara de la Harpe, born 12th August 1878, died 18th November 1949, daughter of Egbert Oliver de la Harpe and Amelia Lucretia Van Langenberg. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXX, page 47, and Vol. XLI, page 61). He had by her—

- 1 Esme Judith, born 15th January 1899, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 18th April 1925, Shirley John de la Harpe, Chief Inspector of Police, born 10th December 1897, widower of Ruth Imogen Jennings. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XL, page 28), and son of John Alban Benjamin de la Harpe and Lillian Caroline Van Langenberg. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXX, pages 49 and 53, and Vol. XLI, page 61).
- 2 George Merrick, born 23rd December 1899.
- 3 Thomas Edwin Denzil, Ceylon Civil Service, born 3rd March 1901, married in St. Mary's Church, Dehiwela, 18th January 1933, Norma Mary St. George Kelaart, born 23rd April 1903, daughter of Christopher Basil Kelaart and Muriel Mary Wright. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXVI, page 21).
- 4 Ninette Inez Marie, born 7th August 1902, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 21st September 1929, Ubald Diendonno Robert Caspersz, born 17th May 1895, son of Claude Henry Caspersz and Clotilda Carolina Holsinger.
- 5 Aldhelm Rienzi, who follows under VI.

## VI

Aldhelm Rienzie Loftus, born 8th October 1904, married in Holy Trinity Church, Nuwara Eliya, 3rd May 1943, Bertha Adelaide Stork, born 13th December 1910, daughter of Gerrit William Stork and Dora Augusta Bennett. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VII, page 23) He had by her—

Moir Belle, born 20th September 1949.

*Notes:* (1) Civil Medical Sub-Assistant John Loftus referred to in II, was sent from Galle to Trincomalee in April 1840 in medical charge of the troops on board the transport "Allaboie". There was some apprehension that this transport was not taking more than two hundred men from Trincomalee to Singapore, for which she was chartered by the Indian Government. If therefore became necessary to send about fifty men by the transport "Braemar," and at the request of Colonel Buraell, who commanded His Majesty's 18th Regiment at Trincomalee, His Excellency the Governor, the Right Honourable James Alexander Stewart Mackenzie, sanctioned Dr. Loftus being sent in medical charge of the troops embarked on board the "Braemar" for Singapore. Dr. Loftus was instructed that, if his services could be dispensed with, he was to return from that port by the first opportunity that offered for Ceylon. (Colonial Secretary's letter dated May 4, 1840). (2) George Merrick Loftus, referred to in V, 2, left for India in 1918, and joined the Indian Army Reserve of Officers. He received a King's Commission and was attached to the 21st Punjab Regiment. He was on active service in the North West Frontier Campaign, where he served as acting Assistant Commandant of the Camel Corps. There have been no news of him for many years.

## GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF MARTENSTYN OF CEYLON.

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

## I

Johan Conrad Martenstyn of Werstad married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 20th March 1791, Anna Maria Magdalena Du Bois of Galle. He had by her:—

- 1 Johannes Andreas, who follows under II.
- 2 Johan Lorensz, born 29th March 1795.

## II

Johannes Andreas Martenstyn, Surveyor, baptised 26th February 1792, died 3rd March 1857, married Elizabeth Carolina Trek and he had by her—

- 1 Johanna, died 4th January 1840, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 23rd December 1839, Arnoldus Raymond, born 6th January 1810, died 10th December 1879, widower of Maria Cressiana de Neys, and son of Jacob Raymond of Geneva in Switzerland and Anthonica Henrica Christoffelsz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 14).
- 2 Anna Charlotta married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 2nd May 1845, John Andrew Hesse, born 27th October 1816, died 10th February 1885, son of Johannes Hesse and Johanna Gertruida Van Buuren.
- 3 John George, who follows under III.

## III

John George Martenstyn, born 1826, died 20th March 1863, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal 25th September 1856, Wilhelmina Carolina Aldons, born 25th October 1830, daughter of Jacobus Robertus Aldons and Johanna Dorothea Woutersz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVI, page 74, and Vol. XXXIX, page 54.) He had by her—

- 1 Alice Laura, born 27th July 1857.
- 2 John Ebenezer, who follows under IV.
- 3 John Richard, who follows under V.
- 4 Agnes Jane, born 25th August 1862, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 6th October 1881, Arthur William Metzeling, Ceylon Civil Service, born 14th October, 1858, died 7th August 1929, son of Hendrik Bartholomeus Metzeling and Henrietta Gertruida Smith, widow of John George Reimers. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII, page 47).
- 5 John Ambrose, born 25th August 1862, died 1865.



## IV

John Ebenezer Martenstyn, born 26th September 1856, died 29th January 1933, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 17th February 1890, Roseline Cornelia Fernando, born 26th February 1862, daughter of John Marcianus Fernando and Patronella Charlotte Brohier. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXI, page 196). He had by her:—

- 1 Donald Ebenezer, born 6th February 1891.
- 2 Clarence Hubert, born 9th May 1892, married at Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A., 30th July 1930, Amy Frances Wilkinson, daughter of Nathaniel Wilkinson and Mary Harvey of Dromore in County Down, Northern Ireland.
- 3 Ottelia Rose, born 6th September 1893.
- 4 Leslie Vernon, who follows under VI.

## V

John Richard Martenstyn, born 11th February 1860, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 28th December 1885, Priscilla Leonora Ohlmus, born 14th October 1857, died 2nd November 1928, daughter of Jacobus Wilhelmus (James William) Ohlmus and Henrietta Dorothea Blok. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVIII, pages 170 and 171). He had by her—

- 1 John Ludwig, who follows under VII.
- 2 Alfred Bertie, who follows under VIII.
- 3 Ebenezer Vincent, who follows under IX.
- 4 Irene Florence, born 23rd March, 1891.
- 5 Beatrice Hilda, born 28th July 1894, died 3rd March 1944.
- 6 George Richard William, who follows under X.
- 7 Percival Donald, who follows under XI.

## VI

Leslie Vernon Martenstyn, born 22nd November 1895, married at Kandy, 15th January 1919, Queenie Lelias Van Dort, daughter of Walter Dominic Van Dort and Sophia de Silva. He had by her—

- 1 Douglas Vernon, who follows under XII.
- 2 Arthur Winston, born 19th January 1921, married 10th April 1950, Mary Therese Agnes Brown.
- 3 Frank Baldwin, who follows under XIII.
- 4 Carl Lorenz, born 11th June 1924.
- 5 Rex Emerson, who follows under XIV.
- 6 Rita Maureen, born 26th January 1938.

## VII

John Ludwig Martenstyn, born 25th November 1886, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 27th December 1928, Frances Irene Keegel, born 2nd January 1887, daughter of Immael Henry Keegel and Frances Adelia Alice Speldewinde. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII, page 74.) He had by her—

- 1 Frances Priscilla Doris, born 9th May 1925, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 27th December 1948, Mark Edgar Spaar Siebel, born 28th January 1922, son of Claude Brooke William Siebel and Gertrude May Potger. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVII, page 111 and Vol. XXXVII, page 52).
- 2 Henry Richard Ludwig, born 5th May 1926.
- 3 John Milroy George, born 19th November 1928.

## VIII

Alfred Bertie Martenstyn, born 21st January 1888, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 21st December 1914, Beatrice Hilda Ohlmus, born 6th October 1885, daughter of George Edward Ohlmus and Catherine Rhoda Corner. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVIII, page 172). He had by her—

- 1 Rhoda Dorothy Leonora, born 2nd October 1915, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 6th January 1945, Llewellyn Patrick Juriansz, born 6th January 1915, son of Richard William Juriansz and Agnes Venetia Jansz.
- 2 Edward Richard Bertram, born 18th October 1918, married at Bangalore 1950, Terese Boother.
- 3 Elmar Mervyn Ohlmus, born 21st September 1922.
- 4 Beatrice Christobel Ohlmus, born 12th July 1925, died 25th September 1925.

## IX

Ebenezer Vincent Martenstyn, born 20th December 1889, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 1st September 1917, Elsie Mabel Ohlmus, born 21st July 1887, daughter of George Edward Ohlmus and Catherine Rhoda Corner. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVIII, page 172). He had by her—

- 1 Elliston Vincent, born 3rd April 1919.
- 2 Elsie Catherine Leonora, born 1st September 1920, died 17th December 1929.
- 3 Lorna Lilian, born 7th November 1921, died 29th November 1937.
- 4 Edward Lorensz, born 10th March 1923.
- 5 Sheila Florence, born 1st October 1924.

## X

George Richard William Martenstyn, E.D., Assistant Collector of Customs, Lieutenant Colonel Commanding the 4th Battalion, Ceylon Light Infantry, 1942—1943, born 8th August 1898, married:

- (a) In St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya, 2nd April 1934, Beatrice Irene Berenger, born 15th June 1900, died 7th March 1939, daughter of Frederick David Berenger and Alice Eugenie Inman nee Cramer.
- (b) In St. Paul's Church, Kynsey Road, Colombo, 28th July 1945, Annette Joyce Solomons born 28th June 1923, daughter of Francis William Solomons and Constance Mabel Buttery.

Of the first marriage, he had—

- 1 George Frederick, born 3rd March 1939, died 15th May 1939.

Of the second marriage, he had—

- 2 Natalie Dawn, born 5th October 1946.
- 3 Priscilla Pauline, born 20th October 1947.

## XI

Percival Donald Martenstyn, born 6th October 1899, married in the Roman Catholic Church at Klang, Selangor, F.M.S., 4th November 1922, Lilian Mabel Irene de Zilva, born 31st December 1898, daughter of Cyril de Zilva and Elizabeth Marian Herft. He had by her—

- 1 Percival Richard Joachim (Michael) born 18th July 1925.
- 2 Dorothy Mary, born 26th November 1928.
- 3 Cyril Edgar Cherryton, born 21st December 1929.
- 4 Joseph Ainsley, born 10th March 1933.

## XII

Douglas Vernon Martenstyn, born 9th December 1919, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 4th August 1945, Mary Ellen Camela Koch, daughter of Herbert Vincent Koch and Jane Rosamond Gogerly. D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII page 88). He had by her—

- 1 Cedric Douglas, born 5th October 1946.
- 2 Malve Yvette, born 27th December 1948.
- 3 Trevor Spencer, born 27th December 1948, died 27th June 1949.

## XIII

Frank Baldwin Martenstyn, born 13th July 1923, married in St. Mary's Church, Kegalle, 11th April 1945, Gertrude Elizabeth Mary Jansen, and he had by her—

- 1 Kenneth Russell, born 3rd September 1946.
- 2 Lorraine Valerie, born 22nd May 1949.

## XIV

Rex Emerson Martenstyn, born 23rd January 1926, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 26th January 1946, Yvonne Jenette Rita Misso, born 3rd March 1929, daughter of Alex Edwin Oswald Joseph Misso and Ida Marion Moldrich. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIX, page 75, and Vol. XXXIV' page 119). He had by her—

- 1 Antony Roger, born 7th July 1946.
- 2 Jennifer Christine Bernadette, born 3rd May 1948.

Note: Clarence Hubert Martenstyn, referred to in IV. 2 left Ceylon in January 1923. He went to Worthington in Ohio, where he established himself as an Accountant. He is now a citizen of the United States of America. He visited Ceylon in 1950. His wife is a Psychiatric Social Worker at Worthington.

**WILLENBERG GENEALOGY.**

D.B.U. JOURNAL, VOL. XXXVII, PAGE 30.

**Additions.**

- 1 Jacobus Willenberg and Anna Margarita Gomes, referred to in section I, were also the parents of Emelia, born 19th May 1843.
- 2 Substitute the following for section II:  
Matthew George Willenberg, Proctor, born 11th August 1838, died 6th March 1913, married in St. Stephen's Church, Negombo, 28th September 1881, Margaret Ellen Toussaint, born 30th September 1849, died 25th February 1930, daughter of John Waterloo Toussaint and Charlotta Sophia Von Conradi. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IV, page 36, and Vol. VI, page 67.) He had by her:—
  - 1 Eric Irvin, born 15th July 1882, died 4th February 1886.
  - 2 Milda Letitia, born 24th April 1884, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya, 8th October 1914, Ignatius Rodriguez born 1879.
  - 3 Ellen Margaret, born 27th October 1885.
  - 4 George Walwin, born 5th May 1888.
  - 5 Florence Lucretia, born 6th April 1893, died 1st January 1949, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya, 4th April 1918, Rudolph Spencer Driberg Hoffman, born 17th June 1888, son of Andrew Philip Hoffman and Edith Rosalie Driberg.
- 3 In section VI, item II, line 3, between "Holmes" and "and", insert "son of Clement Aloysius Holmes".
- 4 In section VIII, item 2, line 2, after "1919", insert "died 30th August 1948".

D. V. A.

**VAN LANGENBERG GENEALOGY**

D.B.U. JOURNAL, VOL. XLI, PAGE 58.

**Corrections.**

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|---|--|
| 1 In section I, item 2, line 3, for "Donne" read "Douwe". | 4 In section XXV, line 1, for "Earris" read "Harris".        |
| 2 In section VII, item (b), for "1824" read "1854".       | 5 In section XXXI, item (a), line 2, for "Vete" read "Vere". |
| 3 In section XXII, line 2, for "1841" read "1941".        | 6 In note 2, line 9, for "re-acting" read "reaching".        |
- D. V. A.

**DEMMEER GENEALOGY.**

D.B.U. JOURNAL, VOL. XLI, PAGE 74.

**Corrections.**

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|--|--|
| 1 In section IV, item 6, line 3, for "Alwis" read "Alvis". | 3 "Juslin" read "Justin".                          |
| 2 In section VIII, line 4; for                             | 3 In section IX, line 3, for "Onida" read "Ouida". |
- D. V. A.

## THINGS IN GENERAL

[FROM A WOMAN'S STANDPOINT]

By Athena.

## (I) On Personalities.

I have come across somewhere the theory that conversation has three grades. The highest is to talk of ideas, the next is to discourse about things, and the lowest of these grades is to let one's conversation be made up of personalities.

Whether this theory be entirely correct or not we must admit that personalities take too large a place in the conversation of most people. Relatives err oftenest in this direction. They seem to take it for granted that they have a right to pay you the left-handed compliment of telling you many an unpleasant truth that had better be left unsaid.

It is hardly cheering when one is feeling depressed and quite out of tune with life, to be greeted with the information that you are looking very ill, or when you are uncomfortably conscious that you are not well dressed to be told that your dress is very unbecoming; and it is difficult indeed to restrain yourself from descending to the same level, and replying with another unpleasant personality. The only balm for one's wounded feelings at the time is to reflect that although the person who indulges in personalities can annoy you, she cannot bring you down to her level.

I believe that with most people the constant flow of personal remarks is due not only to a lack of good-breeding, but also to a dearth of ideas. Those whose minds are well stocked and have a wealth of interesting things to think as well as to talk about, do not need to make conversation over other people's looks or clothes!

I have also noticed that the people whose speech is full of personalities seldom have any pleasant ones to launch at you. It is always something that hurts your vanity or complacency, or interferes with your peace of mind, that they have to say. But any attempt to retaliate in the same manner will be resented, and met with the utmost indignation.

Supposing, when one of those people tells you that your dress is looking rather old-fashioned, you were to scrutinize her in a critical manner, and volunteer the opinion that you think the present "short skirts are so unbecoming to short stout women," to which type your listener belongs, you would certainly make an enemy for life but she will not realise that she was an aggressor in the first instance.

I must admit that the feminine sex is far more prone to indulge in personalities than men are. It is seldom you hear a man greet a friend with a criticism of his tie, or the cut of his coat, or indulge in little pin-pricks about their figures or ages, but on the other hand men are far more active in another form of personalities—that of giving unasked advice—than women are. "I'll tell you what to do" comes so easily from the masculine tongue. Some men particularly those who have been successful in some line of business in life, feel that they are quite competent to advise on every subject under the sun.

I am sure we have, all of us, met the man who thinks he is an authority on nearly every subject one speaks about, be it architecture, religion, science or poetry. Usually this type of man suffers from "the exaggerated ego" and the letter I plays no insignificant part in his conversation! He thinks his opinion is of supreme importance on every subject brought up in the course of general conversation, and will proceed to air his views with a colossal conceit of his own infallibility that cannot be easily beaten.

If someone chances to talk of gardening he will give you an elaborate treatise on the subject till he makes his audience quite weary of the sound of his voice. If there is no rash soul present who will venture to contradict him, not much harm will be done, but if there is someone present who is disposed to be argumentative, a war of words will ensue that will result in loss of temper on both sides and only stop short of blows.

Kindly persons may fruitlessly endeavour to avert disaster by trying to turn the conversation into another channel, and will hit upon the unfailing subject available at the present time—the war. Alas! this well meant effort will only make things worse. He will begin another exhaustive discourse on this subject, speedily reducing everyone present to an apathetic silence. In desperation some intrepid spirit will try to bring relief to his fellow sufferers, taking advantage of a pause made by him to take breath, by talking of the progress made in the study of music in Ceylon. A forlorn hope again! Undaunted our hero will resume the charge, and though he does not know a note, and cannot tell Chopin from Beethoven, will proceed with renewed vigour to tackle this fresh subject, sublimely unconscious of his own ignorance.



Some fool will then rush in where angels fear to tread, and try to switch the conversation off to house-building. Worse and worse! In his most urbane and grandiloquent manner he will then proceed to dilate on drainage, the respective merits of cabook and brick, etc.

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At length, having reduced everybody present to a state of limp, exasperated exhaustion, he will take his departure, beaming with good humour, feeling quite benevolent towards the world in general, and beautifully unconscious of the vindictive feelings of his victims. And later, in his after dinner expansive mood, he will tell his best friend, or some other unfortunate being who cannot avoid listening to him, that conversation is a lost art at the present day, and of his heroic efforts to keep the ball of conversation rolling in the company he had found himself in that evening, serenely oblivious of the fact that he killed all chances of any sort of conversation by doing all the talking himself, and like Tennyson's brook going on for ever.

## (II) On Home Truths.

It is perhaps, just as well, taking all things into consideration, that we keep our truths for home consumption, while we reserve our untruths for our more distant acquaintances. Home truths are very much like our ordinary fare at table, which we eat as a matter of course quite contentedly, *en famille*, but which we consider quite inadequate when we are expecting visitors. We are all of us so prone to telling the members of our own home circles exactly what we think of them,—plain truths, quite unvarnished,—but when we have visitors or meet strangers, it is but rarely we indulge in this habit. We keep our compliments for the stranger, and the "some time guest," but have no compunction whatsoever about letting the members of our families have it "straight in the eye."

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From one point of view this is rather a healthy custom, particularly in large families, where the honours get pretty evenly divided, and each one gets his or her fair share of the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The sharp blade of family criticism is really invaluable for pruning down the fresh shoots of self-conceit and over exuberant youth,

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When the eldest sister starts tilting her hat over her eyes in the latest approved mode, with only one fancy orb visible, it is quite usual to hear her brothers trimming back this little shoot with refreshingly candid opinions on the subject. The smallest signs of artificial aids to beauty are sternly repressed by unflattering fraternal comments, and many a girl must thank her rude brothers for saving her from making an exhibition of herself when she was young and foolish.

Brothers, in their turn, have got to submit to the pruning shears of home truths. They are preserved from indulgence in the extremes of fashion by their fond sisters. Tricky-looking hats and boots are effectively repressed, and in the matter of collars and ties they are kept in order. The knut is allowed to shoot up, by his family, only at the one or two points which will ensure his growth into a decent, upright, comely young fellow. Goodness knows what sort of a bush he might develop into if not for the family pruning knife.

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Even the pater is kept more or less in trim by his girls and boys, and it is the girls who display the greatest tact in preserving some of the bloom of youth in him. He is not allowed to go out in his favourite but shabby and funny-looking old hat, if they can by any means prevent it, and they do their best to rejuvenate him from the old fogey-ish, shabby-looking person he would deteriorate into, if left to himself. The father who is successfully managed by his daughters often, thanks to them, looks like an elder brother of whom they can be proud.

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As for the mater, these irrepressible boys and girls of hers, prevent her from getting dowdy in her dress, and she is perforce kept up to date and ready to participate and enter into the spirit of all their joys and pursuits. In such aspects as these the use of home truths is quite legitimate and profitable, but we cannot be too careful lest it degenerate into friction, and the atmosphere of the home be darkened by the brickbats of home truths flying about. There is a great deal of obvious truth that may with advantage be left unsaid. For instance, if one sister has a snub nose, there is no necessity to be constantly reminding her of it, for the fact is self-evident to her at every peep she takes in the looking glass. If another is putting on "too, too solid flesh," why hurt her by giving her the nick name of "Jumbo?" The burden she carries is hard enough to bear, without it's being made harder still through brotherly wit.

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If one brother is lost to all else in the world but the care of an incipient moustache, why twit him about it? It is a sign of youthfulness he will speedily grow out of—and if another begins to devote extra pains to his toilet, you may be sure he is awakening to the charms of other boy's sisters, and he should not be made fun of. It is a harmless phase that will soon pass.

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After all, charity should begin at home, and if we all speak a little less of the unpleasant things we think, and show more of kindheartedness in our family circles, the home would be a pleasanter place to live in. Why are we so reluctant about telling pleasant

truths to our near relations? Why should we not admire a sister's hat, or mother's new dress, or give pleasure to the dear old dad in his Sunday best, by telling him he looks spruce. We *think* these things, but are so dreadfully shy about giving expression to them.

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We will do no great harm if we give the home truths a rest now and then. Let us try the experiment of treating our own people as tactfully and courteously as we do our friends down the next road.

We may certainly run the risk of being suspected by the rest of the family that we are sickening for some disorder, or are playing the fool when we start paying friendly compliments, but once they get used to it, and realise you really mean them, the family wheels will run smoother than they ever did before by the use of this lubricant.

## AN ALBUM OF J. L. K. VAN DORT'S SKETCHES.

Last year, in the April issue of the Journal (Vol. XL, No. 2), there appeared some reminiscences of J. L. K. Van Dort, the Ceylon artist who attracted international notice a hundred years ago. Those reminiscences were written by J. B. Siebel, Crown Proctor of Kandy, himself an outstanding personality who contributed largely to papers and periodicals published in his generation.

J. B. Siebel's account of the life and times of Van Dort, his closest school-boy friend and contemporary, does not however mention much that the artist did to make Ceylon known abroad. One of the most notable contributions by Van Dort in this direction was his oil panels which presented Ceylon to the people of the world at the big Chicago Exhibition. Equally full of interest was the great success he made of the vast collection of pictorial exhibits of Ceylon's quiet, sunlit countryside, of the Island's produce and industries, which the Government sent to the Great Paris Exhibition.

There is, moreover, another omission. In mentioning J. L. K.'s connection with the London Graphic, Siebel does not state that his friend was *appointed* a Staff Correspondent of an austere publication which would not have recognised mediocrity. It apparently happened this way.

When he visited Ceylon, in December 1875, Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, was accompanied by a large staff of Special Correspondents. The humour and wisecrack that Van Dort introduced into his sketches and caricatures which appeared at that time rather frequently in the local papers, did not apparently escape the notice of the representative of the London Graphic. He sought to know the talented artist who with gaiety, and kindness, made drawings of the types of races and amusing characters in Ceylon, with all their virtues and their failings, and had the boldness to put them over. The link which was forged in this manner helped largely to his appointment on the Staff of the Graphic, and to bring this rather somnolent little Island - as it then was, to the notice of people abroad,

During the past decade and earlier, sketches by J. L. K. Van Dort have sporadically appeared in Ceylon Christmas Annuals and local journals. But surely, the work of this pioneer artist merits something more, and tangible recognition.

It is as much a compliment to the artist as it is to his Community, that a well-known Sinhalese lady, always friendly, has appreciated this scant recognition of honour to whom some honour is due, and has decided on bringing out a book reproducing some of Van Dort's most characteristic sketches.

The production of this book, has, it is understood, been put into the hands of a first-rate firm of publishers in Edinburgh, and the printing has progressed to a "proofs" stage. A member of the Union who was privileged to see the "proofs" says they are "fine."

But what is more heartening, though it must prick the conscience of many a reader to think of, is that the work and worth of one who many of his own Community have left forgotten, will be preserved to generations of the future, through the good office and appreciation of a sole admirer. Few readers, and members of the Union, will deny a graceful attitude in acceptance of this public-spirited gesture.

## DUTCH HOUSES

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They died and left behind these monuments.  
 Plucked from the streets of Den Haag, Leyden, Delft;  
 Governors, evangelists, and merchants.  
 Those the cinnamon and brocaded years had blessed.  
 Full of crinolines, carriages and brick ovens.  
 And rough soldiery floating on pot-still arrack;  
 Solid as wholemeal bread, these old houses.  
 Once guarded the bored, the romantic, and bright.  
 And now part of our heritage—the granite, and limestone.  
 Or baked brick, remind the mere talkers.  
 Of their enormous industry and work, well done.  
 So honour these bright builders, whose blood.  
 Still flows merry and quick, where least known.  
 And where the sea-spray on the Sea pink's blown.

*(With acknowledgment to the Times of Ceylon).*

## OLD COLOMBO

## Strolling round the Pettah

*These peeps into the Pettah of by-gone times, have been gleaned from the contributions made by the late Mr. W. A. Weinman to news-paper and periodical over three decades ago,—No apology seems necessary for reproducing them in these pages of the Journal for it would indeed be a pity if this wealth of intimate social history is left to languish and to be for ever lost. Readers will no doubt appreciate the need or slight corrections. Basic details nevertheless are those which have been rescued from the files of a diligent collector of news print cuttings,*

*Editor.—*

To-day, if you ask a Burgher if he would like to live in the Pettah, you would be lucky if you do not get a hammering. It was not so in the olden days. Pettah was the May Fair, the Piccadilly, the Leicester Square of the Burghers and the chief residential quarter. Everyone who was anybody lived there, ancient customs and traditions prevailed, a free and easy life was cultivated and behold what a paradise it must have been for "everyone to have lived together in unity."

Prince Street was an important thoroughfare and many were the people who lived in the houses on that road, Oliver Mottau who worked at Bosanquet & Co.'s for over 60 years and retired on pension was a well-known figure in that locality and was fond of his practical jokes but there is one narrated against him which is well worth repeating. Gerard Weinman or "Gatto" as he was called, also lived in the Pettah but in First Cross Street. They were great friends and arranged to go with others to see Wilson's Circus which was performing at the Racquet Court. "We will go early," said Oliver "and first have a sea bath?" It was a moonlight night and all agreed, but Gatto refused to strip complaining of catarrh. While the rest were bathing "Gatto" cleared out with Oliver's clothes and went to the Circus. His friends also rigged up and went there Oliver followed and went up to the banyan tree near the Circus tent and began to bawl out "Gatto, Gatto for the Lord's sake, Gatto, bring my clothes." Gatto unconcernedly came out and Adam was clothed. How they laughed! Hardy, who was connected with the "Observer" office for years, old VanGeyzel, Chief Clerk of the Colonial Stores whose sons are so well-known Lieut-Col. VanGeyzel dear old Edwin, late of the "Examiner," Walter, who is enjoying his retirement, the world forgetting by the world forgot and his daughter who married the much respected Book keeper of Cumberbatch & Co., Walter Kelaart lived in fine houses. Mr. Van Geyzel was an accomplished pianist and in his leisure gave lessons to many a boy and girl. His children and grand children have followed father's footsteps, Henry Kelaart of the Record Office, father of Collie, Banda & Co. lived close to VanGeyzel's and Mrs. Kelaart, one of his

pretty daughters married Walter VanGeyzel. Messrs. Frank de Niese, then of the Colonial Stores, and Peter de Kretser were important persons and the latter was an enthusiastic Pettahrian. He had a very large family and as it was increasing an unwise friend pointed it out to him. "What the Lord giveth the Lord will provide for," said old Peter and before the shoe-maker was introduced to the tailor his friend departed. What old Mr. Peter said he maintained. His family, sons and daughters, were brought up under high Christian principles, receiving the best education and can show a record of good and useful work. Edward de Kretser is probably the greatest financier in the Government Service. He had in his keeping when in the Colonial Office all the great secrets of State and will anyone dare to say he abused his trust. With a head packed in ice, never perturbed, he has borne the fifty-five years or more of his service with honour and respect. The King created him a member of the Imperial Service Order but Sir John Anderson is not slow to recognise downright loyalty and merit and perhaps next birthday honours we will gather round his residence at Bambalapitiya and shout congratulations to Sir Edward and Lady de Kretser. Oswald, the District Engineer, was a real Pettah boy and how he lost a bit of his ear in the Pettah rice riots can best be told by him. The couplet.

Pettah Warriors

Small Pass Water-carriers

was the war cry of the boys in those not hard times. There also lived in that street old Mr. Leudelicks of the Customs, who had five handsome daughters, one married Frank Thomasz, the great Kalutara Proctor, another Henry Kelaart, another Arthur Garret Misso of the P.W.D., another old Mr. Orr, the Proctor of Kalutara and father of the well-known cricketers Charlie Claude and Cyril and the last Proctor Hingertsz of Colombo. There must have been cricket in this family because the Thomasz's Kelaart's and Orr's have made names for posterity. Charles Aldons of the Customs whose son was the well-known doctor and whose wife still lives had two daughters, one married Milliani Sansoni of Negombo and the other William Sansoni of Chilaw, both brothers. The daughter of William married N. J. Martin, the laird of "The Manor", Chilaw, where she up-to-date devotes herself to charity and hospitality.

John Rode was an Auctioneer and never appeared without his top-hat snuff box and dark red handkerchief. He is credited with many tall stories and was the author of the songs."

"Josey"—Josey run away.

The fugitives are come "They say."

Fugitives were soldiers and the Burghers looked upon them at that time with contempt. John Rode's daughter married Tiddy Schubert, who was known as the "boxer". It was everything Tiddy and they always pushed him to the front when there was a fight. Dutcho Rode, the Auctioneer, was known as the "Universal Provider" and



also kept a large livery stable. The horses when not engaged, were tied on the road-side to the lady-love trees, which were grown on the sides for shade and, of course, the leaves were all eaten up by the horses. If ever there was a wedding, a party, or a funeral, Mr. Rode supplied all the requirements. One cannot forget Miss Matilda Jansz who kept a school by the lane adjoining the Baptist Chapel. The beauty and fashion attended this school and Miss Jansz can look with great pride on some of her pupils now married and holding good social positions. She maintains her health and like the voice of the village blacksmith, hers can be heard Sunday after Sunday at the Bambalapitiya Church choir singing her praises unto God, with simple devotion. The Baptist Chapel was well attended on Sundays and Rev. Stephenson was in charge. It is stated that Sir Richard Morgan often preached in this church, when the place was full to overflowing.

Chetwynd Meurling contributed to the *Independent* in 1901 and 1902 letters under the signature of Gallicius, which every Burgher ought to read if he has not done so already. Read what he says:—"We have been so horribly heartless with regard to the welfare of the community." Let us cultivate a hatred—the hatred of the selfish Burgher.\*

It is insufficient to be a member of a respectable family unless that family belongs to a respectable and respected community of families. No community or nation can advance unless there is a feeling of national life, a feeling of pride felt by the individuals in the community of which they are component parts.

Again let the following be driven home to the younger members of the community;—"In whatever we do, reflect that we carry in our hands the honour of our community. If we do it well, it rebounds to its credit, if otherwise, we are doing it dis-service.

Under the Treaty of Paris, Ceylon was handed over to the English by the Dutch in 1796, not conquered. Ceylon and the Cape became British subjects' colonies and the Burghers were to have equal rights. It was open to them to refuse to live under the British flag and a considerable number did refuse and were sent to Batavia, but many remained, who had families and those who lived in historic Pettah are the descendants of these Dutch settlers.

Chetwynd Meurling died in the prime of life, but the grains of gold he wrote about the Burghers and the example he inculcated into them of unity, the avoidance of calumny and the noble precept of rejoicing at others' success, stamped him as a man, who had beauty of thought and a heart entirely devoted to feeling for his community.

\* See D.B.U. Journal Vol. II, No. 3 page 106.

We lost recently another Burgher in the height of his manhood, who had the welfare of the Burgher youth at heart and who gave all his knowledge and leisure to unite them in the games, to make them frank, straightforward truthful citizens and whether at work or at play to always remember they were Burghers first and sportsmen. Gentle in manners without any lofty ideas of greatness Percy Bartholomeusz moved with his people in good or bad circumstances and showed the latter "that there was a rose looking out of the window on every condition of life."

Mr. Spaar, the schoolmaster, lived in the Pettah, when he was teaching in the High School and was a most respected resident. His son Rev. J. A. Spaar, for whom everyone has got so great a regard, retired from the Wesleyan priesthood and now devotes his time unobtrusively in comforting the poor or in helping the needy. The grandsons of Mr. Spaar occupy high appointments, one is the physician in charge of the second hospital in Ceylon in Kandy, another is the Chief Engineer of the Provincial Road Committee, Central Province; the youngest is the young doctor, who absolutely a self-educated young man, has done brilliantly in England, and everybody knows Richard in the Fort who takes as deep an interest in the Burgher Seat as he does in the various philanthropic institutions in the Island.

"Scharenguival who stood over 6 feet, was the lamp-post of the Pettah. By the tallness of his figure he could always be seen and everyone regretted his departure for the Straits where he secured lucrative employment in the Public Works Department. One of his daughters is married to Mr. Misso, a relative of the Portuguese Consul and Chief Clerk of the Mercantile Bank.

Few people resident in the Pettah could forget John Perera. Perera was an expert in curing tetanus, so commonly called lock-jaw. All that he wanted was a frog, the medicine was his secret and from far and wide his services were requisitioned. Tetanus was more frequent then than now, as antiseptics were unknown.

Old Mr. Sicket was sexton of the Wolfendahl Church and keeper of the keys of the burial ground. Everyone knows how he wanted to break up the lock as it would not open and got surprised when the application of a little oil did the trick. A man of great piety and usefulness, he was very much liked by Rev. Samuel Lind-say. His son, the agent to Mr. H. Peries, is yet a pillar of the old church. Mr. Forbes, father of Harry Forbes, recently of the Railway was a neighbour.

Among many dispensaries, the one owned by Gorden Ludekens should not be overlooked. Right opposite to the house was a lamp-post and lamp with red glasses with the name of the dispensary engraved on it. Mr. Arthur Mack—an old boy of the Colombo Academy, and one of the best productions of that school who forsook the learned professions for clerical work—is a step-son and now the valued Chief Clerk of the Police Department.

Mr. Claessen of the Treasury, whose son is book-keeper of the Railway at a very early age, old Mr. Robert Brohier, father of the Chief Clerk of the Court of Requests; Captain Batton, who could relate the most gruesome stories of Chinese pirates and smuggling, all lived in the Pettah.

The Overlundes were deeply interested residents while the Gramers have a reputation for watch repairing, as great as Benson's or Bennett's of English fame. The great virtue of these old residents is that they love their old homes and always view with regret the severance brought about by modern requirements.

The Jongs were in the grocery trade and Chevalier Philip de Jong owned the Norris Road Stores, the Burgher house for all requirements. The well-known doctor, the and rising advocate always with a good joke, are his sons. The Walles' were in the horse trade and old Mr. Walles was a man of great integrity. His son, who died recently, carried on his father's trade, with the same integrity and respect.

The above lot does not exhaust the residents of the Pettah but they give the younger generation an idea of what Chetwynd Meurling, the Matara Proctor, wanted every Burgher to follow, the good example of those gone before and cultivate the spirit of undoubted amity and mutual respect.

So many Gods, so many creeds,  
So many paths that wind and wind  
While just the art of being kind  
Is all the sad world needs.

## LETTERS, EXTRACTS, NOTES Etc.

### Dutch—descended Citizens of Ceylon:—

Bernard Avery, writing on "Ceylon, Junior Dominion," in the June number of "Overseas," the monthly journal of the Over-Seas League says:—

"The Portuguese and Dutch fought for the possession of the Island for nearly three centuries, and there is plenty of evidence of both occupations. . .

The Dutch bequeathed their law and architectures to the Country. In Ceylon, as in South Africa, it is the Roman Dutch and not the English writ which runs. Lawyers are "proctors," and jurymen "assessors." Dutch law is as often as not dispensed in Dutch buildings; the present Senate House in Colombo and the Law Courts fulfilled precisely similar purposes under the Dutch 200 years ago. The gem of all the Dutch architecture in Ceylon is at Galle, the once great seaport on the southern tip of the Island. There, almost unchanged since the last *Gouverneur* hauled down his standard, is a walled city whose formidable defences, crowned with ancient pieces of ordnance, frown with justifiable disapproval on the garish new town that has sprung up outside the ramparts.

Even the original street names are preserved: a glance through the town directory shows that there are still Scharenguivels living in the Marinelaan; whilst around the corner, in the Oranjelaan, the van Schuylenburgs and the Caspersz are neighbours—as they have probably been for two centuries or more. Indeed, the Dutch community of Ceylon, although small is influential beyond its numbers; and the Burghers, as these Dutch-descended citizens are called, have made a considerable contribution to the young Dominion."

## SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

17th April 1950.

**Condolence:** Votes of Condolence were passed on the deaths of Messrs J. G. Maartensz, Victor Altendorff, Mrs. B. Carron and Mrs. A. E. L. Thomasz.

**Congratulations:** Mr. C. A. Speldewinde, the President, was congratulated on his appointment as Commissioner of Income Tax, Estate Duty and Stamps.

**Re-Election:** Mr. Cedric Koch was re-elected to membership.

**Asst. Secretary:** Mr T. B. Collette was elected Asst. Secretary.

15th May. 1951

**Committee:** Mr. J. R. Toussaint was elected a Member of the Committee.

**St. Nikolaas' Home:** Fifteen sets of furniture for the Home had been purchased and donations had been received covering the cost of seven sets.

Fourteen applicants for accommodation in the Home had been interviewed.

A Sub-Committee was appointed to interview applicants for the post of Matron.

**Social Service:** Five applicants were given casual relief. In the case of four other applicants, one was referred to the Education Committee, one to the St. Nikolaas' Home Committee and assistance was given to the other two.

**Billiards Secretary:** Mr. J. A. Leembruggen was elected Billiards Secretary.

**Classes in Dancing:** Mrs. Madeline de Vos was granted permission to use the Hall on Friday from 7 to 8 p.m. for classes in dancing.

**Entertainment:** The following functions were reported as having been arranged for:

- i. An Evening of Music by the Mack Family on 2nd June
- ii. A Dinner Dance on 29th June.
- iii. Race Dance on 4th August.

**Finance:** A Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period January—March was tabled, showing an excess of income over Expenditure of Rs. 211-25. The statement of arrears of subscription and Bar debts was tabled and appropriate action indicated. It was decided to transfer Re. 100/- to the Reference Library Account and Rs. 168-13 to the Journal Account from

the amount lying to the credit of Publications Account, and to appropriate the money lying to the credit of the Choral Group for renewals of stage curtains.

Certain wage increases to the Servants were sanctioned.

29th. June 1951

**Congratulation:** A vote of Congratulation was passed on Mr. A. E. Buultjens on his being appointed a J.P.

**New Members:** Dr. C. Van Dillewijn and Mr. W. A. Maartensz were elected to Membership.

**St. Nikolas' Home:** The Contractor having promised to hand over the Building by 15th July it was decided that steps should be taken to fix a date for the opening of the Home.

Mrs. Isabel Modder was appointed Matron of the Home.

Mrs. H. K. de Kretser, Mrs. B. C. Kelaart, Mrs. R. B. Jansz Mr. A. E. Christoffelsz and the President, Secretary and Treasurer were appointed an Executive Committee to make rules consider applications and to generally organise and run the Home on behalf of the St. Nikolaas Home Committee.

**Social Service:** Three applications for assistance were considered. In one case assistance was given for three months and the other two were deferred for fuller investigation.

**Education:** Three applications were considered and assistance was allowed in two cases. The balance to credit of the Fund on 31st May was Rs. 1416-42.

**Finance:** The Income and Expenditure statement tabled showed an excess of income over expenditure for the period January—April of Rs. 305-01.

One member was struck off for non-payment of subscription over a long period.

Mr. Goonesekera was appointed Asst. Clerk vice Mr. Vandort resigned.

**Resignation:** Mrs. K. E. W. Ferdinands' resignation was accepted.

**Re-Election:** Mr. W. L. W. Ludekens was re-elected to membership.