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JULY, 1953.

[No. 3

Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.



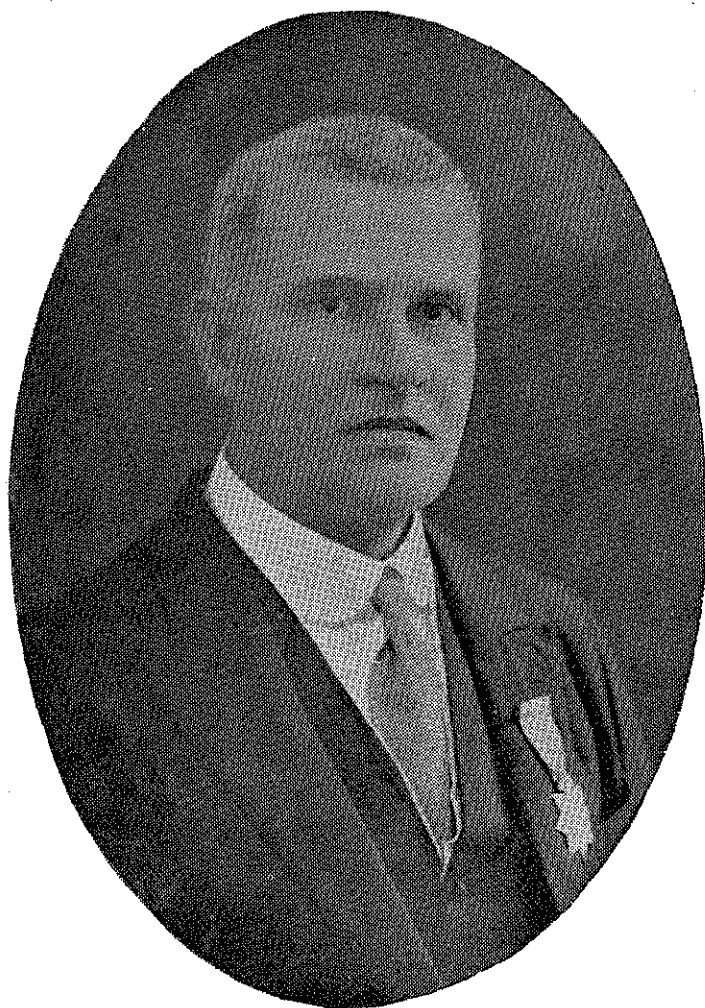
"Eendracht maakt Macht"

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

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Edgar Allan van der Straaten, I.S.O.

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

Vol. XLIII.]

JULY, 1953.

[No. 3

THE UNION—ITS FOUNDATION, ITS AIMS, AND WHAT IT OFFERS ITS MEMBERS.

(Communicated)

Forty five years have now passed since the formation of the Dutch Burgher Union and a new generation has arisen for whose information it appears to be desirable to recount the reasons for the existence of such a Union at all. These reasons are rooted in the past, but to appreciate them we need not go further back than the closing years of Dutch rule in Ceylon.

2. At this date there was, necessarily, already in existence a Dutch Community, composed of the families of the Dutch themselves and of other Europeans who had joined them in Ceylon under the aegis of the Dutch East India Company. Heads of families were included in two categories viz. 1. "Company's servants," i.e. officials and 2. "Burghers" or unofficials, the whole Community being known as the *Hollandsche natie*. It was not a wholly unmixed one, for during the earlier years of the Company's rule marriages with the Portuguese and sometimes with members of the indigenous communities had, owing to the then scarcity of Dutch women in Ceylon, been authorised, but this fact made no difference to the cohesiveness and the oneness of the Dutch Community.

3. With the transference of power to the British Crown the officials, of course, ceased to be such and also became "Burghers", which term thereafter, as a racial rather than the civic one which it originally was, continued to be applied to the same old Community,—the historic and lineal descendant of the old "*Hollandsche natie*", a community of families, in fact, with a reputable racial origin and entitled to be recognised as a national group that is distinct in blood, race, tradition and history. Though the group is numerically small and the name Dutch Burgher does not connote any extent of territory or obviously suggest the national idea, it is yet national in essential qualities and purposes.

4. This Dutch Burgher Community then except for some who preferred to settle in Dutch India or to return to Europe, continued as a distinct racial unit in the public and social life of Ceylon, living in amity with other communities but yet jealous of their own distinctive traditions and outlook, and treasuring them in the background of their memories, despite the fact that, with the passage of time, links with Europe gradually became weaker. With their permanent domicile now in Ceylon they became also, of course, Ceylonese, equally determined with other communities to be loyal to the land of their adoption.

5. That this racial consciousness persisted without any organisation designed to conserve and develop it is in itself a proof of its reality, however much, as time went on and with more intimate relations with members of other communities this reality appeared less obvious to the latter, who naturally were not so much concerned with the history and the future of the community as a racial unit,

6. The public extinction that was threatening the Community as a corporate unit had not, however, been altogether overlooked, and even so late as 1899, the more far-seeing members of our Community bestirred themselves and formed an Association—"Het Hollandsch Gezelschap van Ceylon"—on lines somewhat similar to the Dutch Burgher Union, of which, however, it was only the forerunner.

7. "After the lapse of a whole decade" from that date, to quote from the D. B. U. Journal of March 31, 1908, "the fervent desire of our people, which had never for a moment abated, has happily taken form in the Dutch Burgher Union of to-day", based on the community of race, which, as was said by our founder Richard George Anthonisz at the preliminary meeting of November 12, 1907 "was always the most potent bond of union among people wherever they were".

8. With the foundation of the Union critics were not wanting who would ask "Why need the Burghers who have so long lived happily in our midst now grow exclusive, aloof and superior?" But this was to seriously misunderstand our attitude, for the wish to keep distinct where a distinction already exists is different from any wish to appear superior. As was declared by our Founder "The Union was not going to disturb any of the existing friendly relations" we had with other communities or "to force our own particular sentiments on them". It was only intended to integrate the unorganised Community and to further a more healthy corporate life.

9. But despite our worthy objectives the Union has had to face the trials which frequently attend new expressions of old sentiments and has often been misunderstood. Time, however, and our own silence in reliance on constructive work for the Community rather than on any wordy apologetics, have largely succeeded in countering old suspicions and most people today respect the Dutch Burgher Union and recognise its real purpose, for this purpose is cognate with those of other National Movements and reflects the same consciousness.

10. Not only are we now better understood by other Ceylonese communities but it is also noteworthy that several Dutchmen temporarily resident in Ceylon have become members of the Union, thus justifying the assurance of Mr. Maruits Wagenvoort, a Dutch writer who visited Ceylon in 1908 that "when his writings reached the people of Holland there would be a great deal of sympathy there for the Dutch Burghers of Ceylon".

11. But the Union must ultimately stand or fall by the support given to it by Dutch Burghers themselves and it is therefore essential that all who can should seek membership. Some such potential members perhaps need to be reminded of the main achievements of the Union. Among these may be mentioned the following :—

- (1) that were it not for the formation of the Union our claim to racial distinctiveness would be attributed to only the airy imaginings of individual enthusiasts whereas now it has been consolidated and become the very keystone of Community survival,
- (2) that the Union definition of "Dutch Burgher" was officially accepted as the basis of Burgher franchise in State Council legislation,
- (3) that Dutch Burgher emigrants to Australia have had to depend on the Union for support as to their eligibility on genealogical grounds,
- (4) that practical efforts for the betterment of the community have not been overlooked e.g.
 - (a) We have a Hall and a Club where members can meet for social and cultural purposes and for recreation.
 - (b) We have regularly published a Journal containing valuable articles of historical interest.
 - (c) The San Nikulaas Home now provides modest board and lodging for those who are not in affluent circumstances.
 - (d) The Social Service Fund and the Education Fund regularly help our needier members and families.
 - (e) The fact that the Union is an institution which can administer Trusts and Scholarships has resulted in our being remembered in this respect by individual donors and families.

12. Not social isolationism therefore but rather the continued existence and well-being of our small and historic community and the very legitimate desire to induce the units of the Community to understand their unique situation and in the light of such understanding to safeguard and cherish their self-respect the more surely are the basic objectives of the Dutch Burgher Union, which therefore is well-entitled to all the sympathy and support it claims.

on

THE ATTACK AND DEFENCE OF COLOMBO, In the Island of Ceylon,

Surrendered to the English on the 16th of February, 1796.

(Translated from the Original French of M. de La Thombe).

A translation of *Recueil de Notes sur L'Attaque et Defense de Colombo* which appeared in M de la Thombe's "Voyage aux Indes Orientales", was made by Colonel A. B. Fyers R. E., Surveyor General, when he was President of the Royal Asiatic Society (Ceylon). The translator died in ignorance that a version in English had previously been attempted by Eleanor Nell, the wife of Charles Ambrose Lorenz, and printed for private circulation.

This translation is now unprocurable, and the following re-print therefore represents a valuable addition to the historical papers published in the *Journal*. Colonel Fyer's translation has been printed in Vol X, No. 37 (1888) of the *Journal R.A.S. (C.B.)*.

Incidentally, the book from which this re-print is made carries on its fly-leaf the following legend in the handwriting of the translator :

"C. A. Lorenz : from the Translator
with her best love and affectionate
wishes on his birthday—8th July
1864".

Lorenz died on the 9th of August 1871 at the age of 40 years.

These notes were furnished to M. de La Thombe at *Batavia*, and in the Island of *Java*, by several superior Dutch Officers who had been employed there, and formed at the time of the surrender of the Island a part of the garrison of *Colombo*. M. de La Thombe says, "their character, and the conformity of their accounts, have convinced me of the truth of the notes with which they have supplied me." (*Editor's Note*)

ATTACK AND DEFENCE OF COLOMBO.

July. August, September, 1795.

After the capture of *Trinquemalaye*, the English marched towards *Batticaloa*, which they took without difficulty, and proceeded afterwards towards *Jaffnapatam*, where the Dutch had no troops left save some invalid officers and one company of sepoys; the Europeans and the Artillery having left and proceeded to Colombo. They had also recalled all the Malays who were in the *Vanille* and at *Manaar*; and thereafter were not otherwise occupied than in the defence of this place, which, had it been maintained, would, with the assistance of the King of Candia have facilitated the retaking of *Trinquemalaye* and the other ports of which the English were then masters. They were anxious, therefore, in *Colombo* to make such defensive arrangements as circumstances might render necessary.

Two companies were placed in the ravelin of the Delft Gate.

M. DUPERON, second Engineer, entrusted with the execution of the works, made on the outer side of the Galle barrier a *fleche* which shut out the lake, the road, the Galle—Face and the sea.

They sent him four field—pieces of 18, though they might have placed eight there.

They made a battery of two pieces of 8, outside the Delft Gate, which commanded the coast and the road of the lower town. They placed two pieces of 18, *à la bonnette* beyond the barrier, which shut out the esplanade.

They made another *bonnette* at the corner of the covered road, from the ravelin of the Delft Gate to the Powder Magazine, in which they placed two pieces of 18, which covered the lake along the esplanade; and they put up a fortress there, and raised the covered passage. All these works, as well as the others, were pallissaded.

The side opposite the Government House, and which commanded the harbour, was furnished with small field pieces of one, two or three pounders. They also constructed a large moat there.

A turf—covered battery was constructed to defend the landing pier. They placed three or four pieces of lesser calibre there.

They also caused a large quantity of *chevaux de frise*, fascines, gabions, stakes and poles to be prepared.

The fire—engines were put in order, the wells of the Fort repaired, and those on private property cleared. Amongst other things, they collected a large provision of water in the Government Gardens.

For these labours, the European and Malay Companies were to furnish seven men each, daily. They were to receive, as high wages, six sous, two rations of arrack, and a small loaf. They were to be under the surveillance and command of two of their own officers.

A large number of horned cattle was collected. Magazines were formed of dried fish, cocoanuts, arrack, oil, wood, etc. Private houses were rented for the purposes of magazines, and for the offices of the Company; their own places being employed to deposit the merchandize.

The prohibition on the Storekeepers against selling any provisions, was renewed.

Private individuals who sought to take refuge in the place, were obliged to provide themselves with sustenance for six months; and the others conveyed their goods there, to save them from the pillage which they might have reason to fear when the English were approaching.

Upon the decision of a Council of the various Heads of Departments, which was held in the Governor's House, to consider the means of effecting an external defence, they caused to be cut down part of the trees and bushes of the Isle of Coconut Gardens, all the trees on the Galle—face, on the side of this island, and, among others, a part of the bazaars of the lower town, towards the seaside. They commenced also to break down the block of houses situated on the borders of the lake, as well as those in front of and behind the Cemetery, situated at the entrance of the lower town. They were undecided whether they should break down the lower town as well, as was formerly projected by Mons. Cipierre, an Engineer from Pondicherry.

The ramparts were furnished with cannons, mortars, small mortars, and all the supplies necessary for a vigorous defence.

The Powder Magazine at the Galle Gate and that which is situated at the Rotterdam Gate, were covered over with three layers of cocoanut trees, over which they put four feet of sand. Finally they raised buttresses on the ground from the angles to the bastions.

All the sailors were organised into a company, and exercised with field pieces. Three companies of Moors were also formed, who were to serve as coolies, either for the Company's work or for private individuals. They were commanded by the Battalion Officers. Companies were also thus formed of many of the Singhalese dependants of the Dessawe, commanded by Serjeants or Corporals.

The Clerks of the Company also carried arms, and formed another company amongst themselves. They formed two Burgher companies, commanded by the brothers *Kulemborg*,* who engaged to maintain them during the expected duration of the siege.

In September 1795, there had been murmurings on the part of two companies of the Meuron Regiment, (Regiment de Meuron),† stationed at Galle. They were quieted by a few *coups de baton* distributed by *Major Moitie*

All the merchandize and effects of the company which were to be found at *Tuticorin*, were transported to *Colombo*. Some families came also to take refuge there. So they evacuated the place entirely, and the English took possession of it without firing a musket-shot.

* Kalemberg (?)

† Jul: D. B. U. Vol XLIII, No. 2 pp. 53—75

In the meantime, there arrived from *Batavia* two merchant-vessels, which were, happily, loaded with rice and other provisions. They carried at the same time despatches to the Governor, which corroborated the alliance of *Holland* with *France*, and the news of the departure for *England* of the Stadtholder and his family. These vessels were to be immediately reloaded and despatched to the *Isle of France*; but the difficulty of finding coolies or slaves, or some other motive which no one can know of, retarded their departure.

The Governor would assuredly have had many means of maintaining this place and his other stations, and of saving an immense amount of merchandize from the unhappy result which followed; but he would not, as it seemed, profit by any.

M. Cheniete, Lord Lieutenant at *Trinquebar*, came during the month of August, and offered all the provision which they might require, in exchange for the products of the country. His offer was without effect, either because the season did not permit it, or that they could not agree about the price. He also offered to buy the two merchant-vessels which were to arrive, to put them under the Danish Flag, and to buy all the merchandize of the Company in order to load their vessels, giving Bills of Exchange on the Royal Treasury of Denmark, accepted by the Governor of *Trinquebar*. These proposals were not accepted.

Pierre Monneron arrived soon after from the Isle of France, with two vessels under the flag of *Typpo Saib*. His cargo consisted of Madeira and Bordeaux wines, which were nearly all purchased for the Governor. *Monneron* offered to convey to the Isle of France, to be warehoused, as much merchandize as could be purchased; but as no agreement could be come to as to the price, these offers were equally without effect.

A public sale was effected only of a few things of little value, which were to be found in the magazine, and were likely to be spoiled.

In the meantime, the two ships which had first arrived were reloaded; but no one knew the nature of the cargo, nor the destination of the vessels. A question arose regarding the loading of the *Fidele*, which belonged to Monsieur the Governor *Van Angelbeek*, but sailed under the Danish Flag.

Information was indirectly received that the King of *Candie*, faithful to his ancient alliance with the Company, would offer his assistance in the defence of the Island; but it seemed not to have been convincing, and was rejected, because (it was thought) he would favour the English.

All the spices which were found at *Kelpeti*, *Chileau*, *Nigombo*, *Kaliture*, *Galle* and *Mature*, were transported into the storehouses of *Colombo*, which were regarded as the only place which they could defend. Much of it was left at *Galle*, which the want of means did not permit of being conveyed.

During these preparations, the money changed in value.

The *Roupie*, ordinarily worth five escalins, rose to ten; the *Piastre*, from ten escalins and three sous, rose to twenty; the *Ducaton* from thirteen escalins and two sous, rose to twenty-five; the *Pagoda*, of Tutocorin or Porto Novo, from seventeen escalins, rose to twenty-eight; the *Star-pagoda* and others of twenty rose to thirty-two. Florins and copper money were becoming very scarce.

Two English Frigates having commenced cruising before *Colombo*, an officer and a detachment of Artillery were ordered to betake themselves every evening to each of the batteries on the sea-side; but they were forbidden to fire under any pretext, without an order from the Governor,—a circumstance which naturally raised suspicion amongst the officers who had received the order.

The Governor having resolved to go to *Galle* for (as they said) some secret business, and not having gone there on account of indisposition at *Kaliture*, he had an interview with the Commandant of the former place and Colonel *Sangle*.

On the Governor's return, he caused the field-pieces of 18 and 24 of the Leyden Bastions and False Bay, to be tried in his presence. They carried the whole volley nearly to the mouth of the river at *Grand-Mutuaal*. They were pointed afterwards over the Fish Bazaar and Korteboom. From the Utrecht Bastion, they essayed with the mortar to throw stones to the Galle Gate. In short, they made preparations for a most vigorous resistance.

The English came by land, and very slowly, from *Jaffnapatnam*. The Governor was not ignorant, either of their force, or of the kind of troops of which it was composed. He had been informed of all the arrangements at *Madras*, touching the Island of Ceylon. He had received this information from *Trinquebar* and from *Madras* itself.

The English army was composed of sepoys, partly levied in haste at *Madras* amongst the coolies of the country. A rumour spread that it consisted of ten thousand men, and that the enemy had raised, amongst others, on the coast of *Madere*, a corps of bandits who would be scattered abroad throughout the environs of *Colombo*, to plunder.

They recalled to mind then that there were troops at *Kalpeti* and at *Chileau*; but the Chiefs of these two stations had taken the start in quitting their post, and had left their command to the company's Book-keepers. At this instant, Captain *Lamotte*, commanding the Malay battalion, was sent to meet the enemy with some companies of his corps, but with orders to retreat as the enemy advanced; and he finally came and posted himself in a position to defend the passage of the *Kaimelle* river. On intelligence received that the armed Kandians were coming in great force to unite with the enemy, and that they would convey provisions, he received orders to retire to *Nigombo*, and from thence to return to *Colombo*.

They caused all the bridges on their route to be destroyed, and cut up all the roads, to obstruct the passage of the enemy's Artillery: nevertheless the English came and established themselves at *Nigombo*, (which the *Opperhoofd* had abandoned;) and here they anchored their men-of-war and transports.

Four pieces of ordnance of eight pounds had been placed in the *Passebetaal* road, but orders were afterwards received to remove them.

The English Major, *Agneau*,* who had once before summoned the Governor of *Colombo*, *VanAngelbeek* to surrender the place, and to put himself under the the protection of the English flag, came and made a second summons, and remitted to the Colonel of the Meuron Regiment letters from his brother, and offered him the brevet of Brigadier, if he would pass over to the English Service, which he accepted, and which seems to have been agreed upon beforehand; for he announced at the same time that the whole of this Regiment passed to the same service with its Colonel, and he so claimed it. This treason happened to be the most inopportune, because the European garrison was inconsiderable. This Regiment was composed partly of Frenchmen devoted to their country, and of Hollanders, our allies, on whom dependence might have been placed.

The English Major had arrived in the Frigate *Heroine*, but he had quitted it when at a distance, and caused himself to be conveyed ashore alone in a canoe. He came down to the Hotel, where they had placed, hard by, for form's sake, a Sergeant of platoon. He remained several days, and ate daily at the Governor's house, from the balcony of which he could easily examine the preparations which they might make. Though it seemed as if they would refuse the protection of the English Flag, yet the Meuron Regiment had permission to go, and the Dutch Governor himself hastened them on; for, as they could not procure ships for their transport, he furnished them with the Company's *chaloupes* at twenty roupies a piece. *Pierre Monneron* also freighted one of these vessels as a transport. Colonel *De Meuron* desired to remove his field-pieces, but they were refused him, seeing that they properly belonged to the Company. The French of this Regiment, when many had finished their leave-taking, demanded to be allowed to remain, observing that they were not engaged save to serve the Company; but they were all forced to depart, on the promise that they would be allowed their furlough immediately after their arrival at *Madras*. A good portion of them now deserted.

Captain *Zuelf*, Adjutant of the Regiment, received orders from the Governor to go to *Galle* to direct the embarkation of the two companies which he would find there.

Finally, by agreement between Colonel *de Meuron* and the Governor, the sick who were not able to follow, remained in the Dutch Hospital, and were cared for as being yet in the service. At the moment of the departure of this Regiment, the Council passed a resolution to abandon *Galle*, and to defend no other place save *Colombo*. Consequently they recalled all the Artillery and ammunition; and Colonel *Hugues*, who was to be there with one company of the Wurtemberg Regiment, was ordered to return. He remained however for two days at *Kaliture*, until the former Regiment had totally embarked.

*Agnew

The Malays, the Artillery, three officers, and the sailors of the corsair vessel *Le Mutin*, who were to be at Galle, were also ordered to return to the town.

It was at this particular time that the frigate *L'Heroine*, which had been cruising before this fortress came and anchored opposite *Barbarin*; and some armed sailors, coming ashore, caused much terror, taking provisions, and knocking down cocoanut and palm trees to take the fruits. The officer who commanded them, ordered the postmaster, who was an invalid corporal of the garrison of *Kaliture*, to keep beef and wood ready for the morrow, which he promised to pay for. He then returned to his vessel. This corporal promised all, but he gave information of it to the Commandant of *Kaliture*, and sent on to him three English Sailors who had remained on shore. These were sent to the Governor of *Colombo*, who had them put in prison, together with a deserter from *Trinquemalaye*, who had arrived from *Jaffna*.

They had already placed at *Bentote*, beyond *Barbarin*, a company of Malays, commanded by Lieutenant *Driberg*, to guard the entrance, of the river and the sea-shore, and one at *Pantre*, on this side of *Kaliture*, for the same purpose, under the command of Lieutenant *Vogle*.

As soon as they were at *Bentote*, an order was despatched to this officer to betake himself without delay to *Barbarin*, to oppose the landing of the enemy. He was to have with him a company of Singhalese. At night, they lay in ambush with the Malays behind one of the company's houses, situated hard by the landing-place and behind a neighbouring magazine. The Singhalese, as natives of the country, lay under the cocoanut trees.

The English did not fail to come in the morning, according to their promise. They had four *chaloupes* and one boat to take the meat and the wood which they had demanded of the postholder. They came on shore, armed and commanded by Marine officers. Scarcely were they landed, when the Malays, impatient to fight them, fired and advanced on them. The English, surprised at this reception, threw themselves precipitately into their canoes, and defended themselves by firing at random. A Lieutenant of the Frigate and several sailors were killed, and many wounded. The Malays, having thrown themselves into the sea, captured a canoe and several muskets and sabres. The whole were sent to *Colombo*, and the value of the articles was divided amongst the captors. Three Malays only, of whom one was a sergeant, were killed, and some of these and of the Singhalese wounded. These last also bore themselves very bravely. This little affair showed the enemy, that the Indians of the Dutch Company's Service were determined to defend themselves well. This was also the only time that they attempted a landing.

The Governor, who under his simulation of defence, seemed willing to render all the Europeans whom he found in the place useful, offered to take the officers of the corsair *Le Mutin* and its crew into the Artillery service for the whole duration of the siege; but, as if they foresaw that which happened, they thanked him and instantly

demanding their return to the *Isle of France* in one of the small single-masted *chaloupes* which they would cause to be brought from *Galle*. He granted their demand, and profited by the departure to expedite despatches to General *Malartic*, Governor of the *Isles of France* and of *Bonaparte* (at that time *Bourbon*). They received the necessary provisions, two old *Sakebres* and some old sailors; *M. Pourchasse*, Captain, being in command.

Some days after, profiting by a dark evening and threatening weather, they set sail at 10 o'clock at night. They had the good fortune to escape the English cruisers; and, it was known shortly after, they happily arrived at the *Isles of France*.

At about the same time, an English merchantman came and anchored before *Mature*, and an officer and five lascars came ashore to procure water. During this interval, the *Dessave* sent three fishermen on board, in order to reconnoitre the vessel. The Captain, not seeing his people return, feared an attack; and willing to profit by a good breeze which sprung up suddenly, retained the three fishermen, weighed anchor, and set sail for *Bengal*, which was his destination.

His cargo consisted of Persian horses. The English officer and the lascars were seized, and sent by the *Dessave*, as prisoners of war, to *Colombo*.

The three sailors and the soldiers, prisoners, took service.

A reorganization of the troops likewise took place.

Colonel *de Wurtemberg's* company and that of Captain *Winkelmann*, were divided into three.

Colonel *Venagel* was made Chief Major. Two battalions of Malays were also formed; the first commanded by Captain *Lamotte*, and the second by Captain *d'Obrich*. A separate company was formed of part of the Malays who were in the *Material*, a place of depot for the slaves of the Company and those condemned to chains. Another battalion was formed of sepoys, commanded by Captain *Pannenberg*, Major of the fortress of *Galle*. The Moors, who had been enrolled, also formed a battalion, commanded by Captain *Botzen*. Five hundred *Chalias* were armed, under the orders of Captain *Mittemann*, to be employed in the open country and in the woods. Major *Chedre* was promoted to the grade of Lieutenant-Colonel, and received orders to repair to *Colombo*. The command of *Galle* was given to the Captain of Grenadiers, *Uhlenbeek*, who had none others to do the service of the fortress and of the batteries than some invalids of the Marine Artillery, one Company of Moors, newly levied, and one of Singhalese.

There was also in the *Dessavonie* of *Mature*, a company of sepoys, whom they had sent against the insurgents who, led by a man named *Dorsimon*,* had a long time ago created disturbances in the province. This Company was recalled. The *Dessave* and the Clerks now abandoned *Mature*, and repaired to *Galle*.

* Don Siman?

The *Prosalot* company, composed of the *de Meuron* deserters, for the most part French, having complained of their Captain, was offered by Colonel *Driberg* and the Governor to Captain *Legrevisse*, who accepted it. In compensation, Captain *Prosalot* was made the Senior Adjutant General by the Governor, who placed entire confidence in him. Lieutenant *Hayer* was promoted to the grade of Captain, and took the command of the former *Legrevisse* company; Lieutenant *Vander Straaten* commanded that of the Major of the fortress, *Driberg*; Lieutenant *Osel* of the National Battalion, and Lieutenant *Wekel* of the *Wurtemberg* Regiment, were appointed Adjutants of the Governor.

And lastly they made many other promotions of Captains and Lieutenants. Of the latter was the *Sieur Deville*, a Frenchman, and formerly Quarter-Master of the Regiment *de Meuron*.

As they were wanting in men in all departments of the army, they were obliged to make Engineers of officers of Artillery.

It was during this time that the English vessels, men-of-war and transports, reassembled at *Nigombo*; some frigates and coasting vessels cruised continually before *Colombo*; and they would approach very near it every morning to see that nothing had left during the night.

The frigate *L'Heroine* passed and repassed at a distance from the cannon of the Flag Battery; and they might very easily either have chased her or compelled her to enter; but the Governor having prohibited firing without his orders,—which never came—the Military saw with pain the enemy defying them continually, without being able to avenge themselves on them. The Malays encamped on the sea-shore and under the Flag Battery, being much exposed, were lodged in the magazines of the Captain of the Gate beyond the Water-Gate; and for fear that some armed boat might come near the Flag, they placed under its battery small field-pieces of three or four pounders.

They also placed in the magazines, the sepoys and the Moors.

A part of Colonel *de Meuron's* house was rented to hold the Council of Justice, and an Office there. The Town Hall opposite served for the Citizens and armed Clerks. The merchandize which were found in the Officers, they made over to the Government.

Upon the counsel and invitation of the Governor many ladies retired to *Galle*.

There was at the Government House a small platform, under which is a vaulted cave. The Governor had this covered by four layers of faggots and of sand, under cover of 3 bombs, and he placed his plate and moveables there.

A vessel, under the flag of the King of *Achem* (red flag,) presented itself before the bay and wished to enter. One of two brigs which were cruising, detached itself and gave it chase, sending it a broadside which pierced all the sails. The vessel took refuge very luckily under the battery of the Water-Pass, which was of great calibre; and which, for the first time, received the order to fire. It was supposed that the Governor could not make up his mind to give this order, because he hoped that this vessel might bear the despatches which he daily expected from *Batavia*. The hostile brig turned away from shore, withdrew, and the vessel arrived in good harbour. It happened to be the French corsair vessel *Le Jupiter* from *Batavia*; which had been previously captured by Commodore *Mitchell* and again retaken. The Captain who commanded it was called *Backer*, and was a Dutchman; he had none but Malays for his crew, and he offered to the Governor to find the two brigs ere nightfall, and to conduct them in, if he would give him some sailors, soldiers for his guns; but he was refused.

The Military Council assembled every day. It was composed of the Governor, President, the Colonels *Driberg* and *Hugues*, Lieut.-Colonel *Cheder*, Majors *Vaugine*, *Venagle*, *Prosalot*, and *Hupner*, and the Captain of Engineers *Foenander*.

Tents were caused to be made for the batteries, for the purpose of protecting the Military from the heat of the sun. Broad long knives (a sort of cleaver) were sent to the Malays, in case of assault.

Above the *Galle Plain*, pitfalls and fences were made in the roads leading to *Grand Mutuaal*, and towards *Grand Pass*, wherever the environs of the town admitted of a passage for carriages. Cross roads were made in the woods and gardens, communicating with the different Military stations.

And in order to obstruct the enemy from coming through *Marandanne* or the Cinnamon Gardens, Major *Hupner* took it upon himself to make a canal to join the two lakes above the Island; but the Governor who came to see it, when it was partly done, considered it useless and too expensive, and it was abandoned.

When all the English transport vessels had arrived at *Nigombo*, their troops advanced as far as *Jaiil*, half way to *Colombo*. From thence they announced themselves to the Governor. This was in the beginning of February, 1796.

(To be continued)

GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF VANDER- STRAATEN OF CEYLON

Compiled by Mr. E. H. Vander Wall in 1934; revised by Mr. D. V. Attendorff in 1953.

I.

Engelbertus VanderStraaten, born at Singen (Baden), came out to Ceylon in 1742 in the ship "Rynsburg", died 1790, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. I, page 160) married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 7th November 1747. Susanna Thysz, and he had by her—

- 1 Pieter Lodewyk, who follows under II.
- 2 Engelbertus, born 29th September 1748, died in Batavia in 1776.
- 3 Johanna Susanna, born 1750, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 19th January 1766, Engelbert Haese of Neuringes.
- 4 Jacobus, born 20th October 1752.
- 5 Philippus Albertus, born 20th October 1752, went to Batavia.
- 6 Maria Dorothea Elisabeth, born 3rd October 1756.
- 7 Sarah Wilhelmina, born 20th September 1757.
- 8 Maria Christina, married 9th May 1784, Frans Wentzek Nutsch.

II

Pieter Lodewyk Vander Straaten, born 20th November 1746, died 11th February 1799, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 1st February 1767, Anna Catherina Kuyter. He had by her—

- 1 Pieter Engelbert, who follows under III.
- 2 Anna Susanna, born 7th May 1769, died 17th May 1770.
- 3 Vincent William, who follows under IV.
- 4 Theodorus Jacobus, born 18th May 1772, died 19th April 1783.
- 5 Susanna Catherina, born 29th May 1773, died 17th February 1775.
- 6 Maria Elisabeth, born 15th February 1776, died 24th March 1795, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 7th July 1793, Petrus Flanderka of Lankow.
- 7 Philippus Josephus, who follows under V.
- 8 Pieter Ludowykus, who follows under VI.
- 9 Conrad Sebastian, born 17th July 1785, died 11th May 1788.
- 10 Edward Arnoldus, born 11th June 1787, died 5th November 1789.

III

Pieter Engelbert Vander Straaten, born 21st June 1768, died 13th April 1822, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal:

- (a) 17th July 1791, Anna Catherina Weyman.
- (b) 18th September 1806, Maria Elisabeth Kriekenbeek, baptised 25th August 1782, daughter of Rycloff Johannes Kriekenbeek and Elisabeth de Jong. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. V, page 69, and Vol. IX, page 124).

Of the first marriage, he had—

- 1 Johan Ludowyk, born 1796.
- 2 Philip Engelbert, born 18th January 1798, married at Colombo, 21st May 1822, Maria Charlotte Douwé.
- 3 Philippus Josephus, who follows under VII.
- 4 Charles Alexander, who follows under VIII.
- 5 Petronella Wilhelmina, born 3rd September 1804, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 3rd September 1824, Johannes Wilhelmus Reimers, baptised 3rd July 1803, died 1861, son of Christiaan Fredrik, Reimers and Catherina Arnoldina Van Cuylenburg. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII, pages 46 and 47).

Of the second marriage, he had—

- 6 Petronella Theodora, born 15th January, 1810, married.
 - (a) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 12th February 1827, Marinus Johannes Sisouw, baptised 26th October 1800, son of Marinus Sisouw of Middelburg in Zeeland and Anna Francina Hillebrand. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIX, page 72).
 - (b) In St. Pauls' Church, Pettah, Colombo, 24th October 1838, Francois Albertus Wilhelm Prins, baptised 5th February 1802, died 26th March 1868, son of Cornelis Arnoldus Prins and Gerardina Maria Goldestein. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XL, pages 7 and 8.)
- 7 Margarita Wilhelmina, born 21st July 1811, died 19th June 1848, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 25th October 1830, John Neil Keith, born 4th August 1806, died 13th December 1868, son of David Keith and Anna Elizabeth Oppenheimer. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IX, page 71 and Vol. XXXV, pages 56 and 57).
- 8 Johan Engelbert, who follows under IX.
- 9 Emelia Josephina Wilhelmina, born 2nd January 1815, died 4th March 1848, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 23rd July 1854, Christiaan Albertus Pompeus, born 11th May 1810, died 9th January 1863, son of Phenix Albertus Pompeus and Maria Runcina Cramer. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLI, pages 20 and 21).

IV

Vincent William Vander Straaten, Registrar of the Supreme Court, born 9th December 1770, died 28th May 1845, married 4th February 1798, Anna Wilhelmina Thomasz, and he had by her—

- 1 Petronella Wilhelmina, born 16th December 1798, died 16th February 1826.
- 2 Elizabeth Catherina, born 6th June 1800, married at Colombo, 7th June 1821, John Comyus Bulkley, Assistant Surgeon of the 16th Regiment.
- 3 John Lewis, who follows under X.
- 4 Stephanus Carolus, who follows under XI.
- 5 Anna Maria Catherina, born 25th February 1806, died 6th June 1859, married at Colombo, 14th November 1838, James Carroll, Lieutenant in the Royal Irish Regiment.
- 6 Clara Maria Lucilla, born 1st March 1808, died 13th August 1880, married 27th July 1835, Exshaw Smith.
- 7 Anna Louisa, born 1st March, 1809, died 7th March 1810.
- 8 Charlotte Catherina Johanna, born 20th October 1810, died 15th June 1812.
- 9 Julia Louisa, born 7th December 1811, married in St. Paul's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 12th May 1834, Charles Edward de Breard, baptised 10th September 1809, son of Marie Joseph Benjamin de Breard and Susanna Francina Rudolph. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. III, page 75).
- 10 Seraphina Wilhelmina, born 8th August 1813, died 4th March 1852, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 26th May 1834, Gerrit Willem Stork, born 24th August 1812, died 22nd August 1894, son of Johannes Justinus Stork and Agneta Emarientia Van Cuylenburg. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VII, page 81, and Vol. XLIII, pages 77 and 78.)
- 11 Antoinette Helena, born 26th January 1815, died 7th April 1868, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal 28th October 1839. Carel Ferdinand Christoffel Beling, born 17th February 1808, baptized 13th March 1808, died 6th September 1854, son of Christiaan Anthony Beling and Anna Petronella Schaak. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIX page 11).
- 12 Eugenie Lucretia, born 14th September 1816, died 31st March 1878, married 18th November 1839, St. George Thompson of the Ordnance Department.
- 13 John William Edward, born 7th October 1818, died 23rd June 1844.
- 14 Patrick William, Cammins Bulkley, born 12th September 1820, died 15th August 1832.
- 15 Henry John William, born 3rd January 1823, married 25th February 1843, Reis O'Shee.

V.

Philippus Josephus Vander Straaten, born 11th September 1778, died 8th November 1824, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 6th July 1800, Catherina Kriekenbeek, baptized 2nd October 1785, daughter of Rycloff Johannes Kriekenbeek and Elizabeth de Jong. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. V, page 69, and Vol. IX, page 124). He had by her—

- 1 Pieter Engelbert, who follows under XII.
- 2 Annetta Wilhelmina, born 10th February 1804, died 8th July 1877, married 30th December 1824, Carl Fredrik Mottau, born 16th November 1799, died 30th November 1846, son of Andreas Willem Mottau of Wesel (Westphalia) and Elizabeth Petronella Kofferrman. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. V page 55)
- 3 Maria Elizabeth, born 3rd October 1806, died 8th January 1857, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal 12th December 1820, Samuel Pieter Foenander, baptized 24th March 1799, son of Samuel Pieter Foenander and Johanna Dorothea Wilhelmina Schorer. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXVIII, page 92)

VI.

Pieter Ludowykus Vander Straaten, Sitting Majistrate Jacla, born 5th June 1783, married 29th January 1809, Clare Henrietta Margareta Koenig, and he had by her—

- 1 Pieter Ginkelberk, who follows under XIII.
- 2 Vincent William born 25th January 1813, died May 1868.
- 3 Philip Joseph Lewis, who follows under XIV.

VII.

Philippus Josephus Vander Straaten born 1st January 1800, died 8th November 1825, married 21st June 1817, Wilhelmina Johanna Gertruida Andree baptized 28th February 1800, daughter of Wilhelm Hendrik Andree and Clare Elizabeth Van Hoven. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XL, pages 45 and 46). He had by her—

- 1 Edward Joseph Philip born 1st May 1819, married..... B'arnby.
- 2 Eliza, born 26th March 1821, married..... Austin.
- 3 Clara Maria Matilda born 26th March 1823, married 25th October 1841, Charles Daniel Ludovici, born 4th July 1817, died 1845 son of Petrus Jacobus Hendrik Ludovici Secretary of the District Court, Galle, and Henrietta Josephine Smit. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. III, pages 61 and 62)

VIII.

Charles Alexander Vander Straaten District Judge, Mullaitivu, born 21st May 1802, died 7th January 1858 married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 24th November 1829, Anna Sophia Carolina Lorenz, born 24th December 1807, daughter of Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Lorenz, sitting Magistrate, Matara, and Maria Elizabeth Andree. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. III, page 47). He had by her—

- 1 Maria Alexandrina Wilhelmina, born 26th December 1830, died 20th July 1908, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 15th December, 1853, Henry Robert Fretz, born 22nd January 1828, son of Diederich Cornelis Fretz and Johanna Gertruida Wilhelmina Mattau. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol II, page 72, and Vol V, page 55).
- 2 John Frederick Lorenz, born 27th December 1832, died 16th October 1877.
- 3 Clara Wilhelmina Johanna born 30th June 1836, died 1868, married 25th September 1855, Henry Rawdon.
- 4 Caroline Charlotte Margarita, born 17th May 1840.

IX.

Johan Engelbert Vander Straaten, born 14th December 1813, died 20th January 1872, married 14th September 1849, Sophia Eliza Melchior, and he had by her—

- 1 Lucy Marion, born 14th July 1841, died February 1914.
- 2 Annie Charlotte, born 11th September 1842, died 2nd December 1918, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 27th July 1859, John Henry Eaton, Advocate, Police Magistrate, Matale, born 18th September 1829, died 20th April 1906, son of John Ebenezer Eaton and Wilhelmina Margarita Hicken *nee* Nieuwenhoren. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXV, pages 51 and 52).
- 3 Clara Jane, born 1st January 1846, died 1st September 1902, married 20th January 1870, James Alfred Spaar, Minister of the Methodist Church, born 27th May 1846, died 9th July 1932, son of John William Spaar and Maria Cecilia Andree. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, page 122 and Vol. XL, page 47).
- 4 Arthur Melchers, who follows under XV.
- 5 Augusta Cornelia, born 13th January 1852, married 4th March 1872, Arthur Henry Green.
- 6 Richard Osmund born 11th November 1853, died 31st August 1865.
- 7 Emmeline Sophia, born 5th March 1855, married 21st December 1912, Richard Forster.
- 8 William Morgan, who follows under XVI.

X

John Lewis Vander Straaten, born 21st June 1802, died 11th November 1859, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 5th February 1827, Elisabeth Louisa Magdalena Justina Kriekenbeek, born 21st February 1805, died 31st January 1885, daughter of Willem Abraham Kriekenbeek and Francoise Ursula Frederica Even du Hil. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. V, pages 72 and 76). He had by her—

- 1 Anna Ursula, born 27th January 1828, died 31st January 1856, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 25th September 1845, Charles Arnold Kriekenbeek, M.D., born 30th November 1827, died 20th March 1878, son of Joan Gerard Kriekenbeek and Henrietta Cornelia Gerrardina Cadenski of Lingen. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. V, pages 71 and 72).
- 2 Caroline Catherina, born 27th February 1829, died 4th July 1842.
- 3 Henry John William, born 22nd April 1830, died 17th January 1853.
- 4 John Lewis, born 20th June 1831, died 15th June 1864.
- 5 Henrietta Frances, born 24th June 1832, died 23rd October 1906, married in the Dutch Reformed Church Wolvendaal, 5th June 1850, James Theodore Toussaint, born 21st August 1810, died 19th October 1877, widower of Johanna Emelia Anderson, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol XXXI, page 124) and son of Bernhard Hendrik Toussaint, Surgeon, and Mary Dulcima Willemsz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IV, pages 36 and 37).
- 6 Gerrit Stephen, born 24th March 1834, died 28th March 1909.
- 7 Antoinette Elizabeth, born 10th November 1835, died 10th May 1904.
- 8 Emelia Lucretia, born 15th March 1837, died 12th September 1895, married in the Dutch Reformed Church Wolvendaal, 18th August 1856, Charles Arnold Kriekenbeek, M.D., widower of Anna Ursula vander Straaten, referred to in item 1 supra,
- 9 Lucilla Theodora, born 4th June 1840, died April 1919, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 26th January 1864, Julian Edward Lewis Vander Straaten, who follows under XVII.
- 10 Caroline Catherine, born 6th January 1842, died 13th October 1893, married :
 - (a) 12th March 1868, George Thomas Frederick Leembruggen, born 25th August 1838, died 1885, son of Henrius Alexander Leembruggen and Gerardina Dorothea Kriekenbeek. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IV, page 24 and Vol. V, page 71).
 - (b) 16th December 1887, Henry Ball, Proctor, born 3rd April 1827, widower of Wilhelmina Matilda LaBrooy. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 70) and son of John Ball and Johanna Wilhelmina Ebert, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 78).
- 11 Francis Leopold (Very Reverend Dom Hildebrand Vander Straaten, O.S.B.), born 11th April 1844, died 15th May 1879).

XI

Stephanns Carolus (Stephen Charles) vander Straaten, Ceylon Civil Service, born 30th April 1804, died 8th April 1854, married :

- (a) 10th July 1831, Harriet Frances O'Connor, born 1811, died 29th December 1846, daughter of Dr. Bryan O'Connor of London.
- (b) 15th March 1848, Elizabeth Johanna Keegel, born 6th March 1830, daughter of Henry Arnold Keegel and Catherina Dorothea Gratiaen. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 18, and Vol. XXVII, page 115).

Of the first marriage, he had—

- 1 Vincent Hammond, born 21st December 1834, died 27th April 1910, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 22nd May 1862, Marianne Rosella Morgan, daughter of William Morgan and Janetta Charlotta Melchars. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XI, page 62).
- 2 Marcus Lewis Hall District Superintendent, Ceylon Government Railway, born 21st February 1836, died 23rd September 1893, married Sally Mackenzie.
- 3 Julian Edward Lewis, who follows under XVII.
- 4 Isabella Eugenie, born 18th July 1839, died 24th November 1909.
- 5 Laura Helena, born 30th December 1840, died 8th April 1909, married 18th January 1864, Robert Haddon Smith.
- 6 Anna Maria, born 29th December 1843, died 19th July 1907, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 12th May 1864, Felix Staples Stork, born 17th March 1841, died at Calcutta, son of Gerrit Willem Stork and Seraphina Wilhelmina Vander Straaten, referred to in section IV, 10, supra.
Of the second marriage, he had—
- 7 Josephine Maria, born 18th July 1849, died 26th September 1893, married in St. Mary's Church, Negombo, 1874, Daniel James Jayetileke, Proctor, died 6th June 1942.
- 8 Anastasia Seraphina, born 4th January 1851, died 19th July 1916, married in Christ Church Cathedral, Colombo, 20th February 1882, Ernest Arthur Daniel, born 2nd May 1854, died 23rd June 1924, son of John Bartholomew Daniel and Beatrice Emelia Elizabeth Andree. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XL, page 47).
- 9 Stephen Charles Cassimer, who follows under XVIII.
- 10 Gertrude Florinda, born 16th August 1853, died 15th May 1940, married Alarie James Stork, born 2nd October 1854, son of Gerrit Willem Stork and Emelia Gertrude Beling. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIX, page 11, and Vol. XLIII, page 78).

XII.

Pieter Engelberg vander Straaten, born 13th April 1862, died 1st July 1870, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 19th February 1829, Carolina Elizabeth Pompeus, born 7th August 1812, died 4th May 1873, daughter of Phenix Albertus Pompeus and Maria Runcina Cramer. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLI, pages 20 and 21). He had by her—

- 1 Edmund Arthur, who follows under XIX.
- 2 Clara Adolphina, born 6th August 1843, died 11th November 1844.
- 3 Richard Lionel, Accountant, Municipal Office, Kandy, born 1st January 1846, died 22nd April 1917, married :
 - (a) 30th July 1872, Clara Henrietta de Hoedt, born 14th August 1842, died 26th July 1907, daughter of Charles William de Hoedt, Clerk in Holy Orders, and Clara Elizabeth Vander Wall. (D.B.U. Journal Vol. XXXIII, page 152).
 - (b) 3rd December 1908, Jemima de Hoedt, born 6th December 1853, sister of Clara Henrietta de Hoedt, referred to in (a) supra.
- 4 Sarah Henrietta, born 11th February 1848, died February 1931, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 8th February 1869, Charles Wilmot Schokman, born 8th October 1846, died 23rd January 1888, son of Charles Everhardus (Edward) Schokman and Joseline Petronella Van Geyzel. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 73, and Vol. XXV, pages 108 and 112).
- 5 Cecil Alexander, born 30th August 1849, died 28th December 1905, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal 1st July 1872, Georgiana Wilhelmina Van Geyzel, born 29th March 1849, daughter of Johannes Justinus Van Geyzel and Sophia Wilhelmina Fryer. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VII, page 27, and Vol. X, page 73).
- 6 Frances Eleanor, born 22nd October 1850, died 9th November 1852.
- 7 Alice Lucretia, born 26th October 1852, died 26th September 1890, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 1st September 1873, Frederick James de Hoedt, born 18th February 1846, died 4th February 1887, son of Charles William de Hoedt, Clerk in Holy Orders, and Clara Elizabeth Vander Wall. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII, page 152).
- 8 Edgar Leopold, born 9th May 1854, died 9th December 1856.
- 9 Vincent Patrick, born 6th October 1856, died 4th November 1857.

XIII

Pieter Engelbert vander Straaten, born 2nd November 1811, died 4th September 1863, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolveendaal, 25th January 1834, Agida Van Dort, daughter of Leonhard Van Dort and Francina Perera. (D.B.U. Journal Vol. XXVIII, pages 17 and 18). He had by her—

- 1 John Godfried Lewis (Edwin), who follows under XX.
- 2 John William, who follows under XXI.
- 3 John Dionysius, who follows under XXII.

XIV

Philip Joseph Lewis vander Straaten, born 4th August 1821, died 28th August 1871, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo:

- (a) 24th January 1842, Sophia Maria Louisa Spencer, born 28th November 1825, died 24th March 1867.
- (b) 15th November 1869, Maria Dorothea Daniel, Of the first marriage, he had—

- 1 Anna Maria Louisa, born 20th April 1844, died 13th February 1931, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 4th August 1864, James Robertson Loos, Proctor, born 1st May 1840, died 15th February 1920, son of Christiaan Albertus Loos and Cornelia Rudolphina Cramer. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIX, pages 107 and 111).
- 2 Lucy, born October 1845, died July 1846.
- 3 Eliza Sophia, born, 1st February 1847, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 24th June 1864, Francis Theodore Staples, Proctor, died 22nd October 1929, son of William Adolphus Staples, Advocate, and Selina Dorothy Smith.
- 4 Richard Frederick, who follows under XXIII.
- 5 Vincent Robert James, born 27th February 1851, died 1908.
- 6 Peter Danial, who follows under XXIV.
- 7 Charles Godfrey Lambert, born 5th November 1855, died 20th May 1909.
- 8 Eleanor Lorenz, born 8th April 1860, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 2nd February 1885, Peter Benjamin Christoffelsz, born 19th January 1850, died 19th June 1898, son of Luke Philip Christoffelsz and Catherine Morris. (D.B.U. Journal Vol. XXIV, pages 15 and 18).
- 9 Ada Lilian May, born 6th May 1864, died 23rd February 1943, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 24th May 1884, Cyril Thomas Austin, born 23rd May 1863, died 13th June 1925, son of Nathaniel James Austin, Proctor, and Agnes Elizabeth Stork. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLIII, pages 21, 23 and 78).

XV

Arthur Melchers Vander Straaten, Proctor, born 27th March 1850, died 24th August 1931, married in the Methodist Church, Kandy, 15th August 1874, Amelia Catherina Eaton, born, 23rd July 1846, died 4th May 1923, daughter of John Ebenezer Eaton and Josephina Angenita Bogaars. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXV, page 51). He had by her—

- 1 Arthur Morris, born 5th May 1875, died 1877.
- 2 Lena Amelia, born 23rd October 1876.
- 3 Violet Ellene, born 16th March 1879.
- 4 Euphemia Beatrice, born 14th April 1881, married in the Methodist Church, Kandy, 24th November 1909, Edward Henry vander Wall, Inspector of Schools, born 8th May 1871, died 31st January 1938, son of Wilfred Charles Vander Wall and Emily Harriet Ernst. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, page 155, and Vol. XLIII, page 28).

XVI

William Morgan vander Straaten, Planter, born 18th November 1858, died 15th May 1947, married in the Methodist Church, Kalutara, 12th May 1886, Anna Eliza Vander Wall, born 8th June 1860, daughter of William Casparus vander Wall, Proctor, and Jane Georgiana Victoria Meynert. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, page 155, and Vol. XXVII, page 158). He had by her—

- 1 John William Ives Leslie, born 18th February 1887.
- 2 Gladys Amable, born 27th March 1895.
- 3 Dulcie Marjorie Stowiston, born 13th January 1899.

XVII

Julian Edward Lewis vander Straaten M.D., (Sr. Andrew's), M.R.C.P., L.S.A., (Lond.), L.R.C.S., L.M., (Edin.), Colonial Surgeon, Ceylon Medical Department, Major in the Ceylon Volunteer Medical Corps, born 13th January 1838, died 13th April 1905, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 26th January 1864, Lucilla Theodora Vander Straaten, referred to in section X, item 9. He had by her—

- 1 Vincent Charles Julian, who follows under XXV.
- 2 Ursula Lucilla, born 15th July 1866, died 10th March 1903, married in St. Mary's Church, West Kensington, London 6th July 1893, Glanville St. Clair Van Rooyen, L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.), Inspecting Medical Officer, Ceylon Medical Department, born 19th March 1861, died 6th October 1937, son of Charles Richard Van Rooyen, Land Surveyor, and Charlotta, Petronella Mack. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXVIII, page 135).
- 3 Harriet, born 17th September 1871, died 26th January 1872.
- 4 Harriet Amelia, born 6th June 1873, died 22nd December 1873.

- 5 Albert Edward, District Engineer, Public Works Department, born 19th November 1875, died 5th April 1913, married in St. Stephen's Church, Negombo, 3rd April 1907, Victoria Grace vander Straaten, who follows under XVIII, 3).
- 6 Marcus Owen, born 17th March 1877, died 11th February 1929.
- 7 Eugenie Isabella Mary, born 31st August 1878, died 26th May 1949, married in St. Luke's Church, Borella, 23rd February 1931, Gerard Edward Leembruggen, Superintendent of Surveys, born 28th March 1849, died 12th August 1934, widower of Mary Evelyn de Vaas, and son of Gerard Hendrik Leembruggen and Elizabeth Rieberg. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IV, pages 26 and 27.)
- 8 Lucilla Julia Louisa, born 11th January 1881, died 9th February 1950).

XVIII

Stephen Charles Cassimer vander Straaten, born 4th March 1852, died 23rd December 1900, married Eliza Mary Lyford, and he had by her—

- 1 Elizabeth Mary, born 19th August 1878, married 3rd January 1912, Hugh Jocelyn Stork, son of John Vincent Blair Stork, M.D. Bengal Medical Service, and Harriet Fox. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLIII, page 80).
- 2 Leonard Meredith, who follows under XXVI.
- 3 Victoria Grace, born 5th July 1887, married:
 - (a) In Stephen's Church, Negombo 3rd April 1907, Albert Edward vander Straaten, referred to in section XVII, 5, *supra*.
 - (b) In St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 2nd February 1929, Francis Terence Martensz, born 1st May 1893, son of James Andries Martensz and Edith Maud de Saram. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XL, page 148).

XIX

Edmund Arthur vander Straaten, District Superintendent, Ceylon Government Railway, born 8th May 1840, died 8th July 1911, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 15th June 1865, Drusilla, Schokman, born 15th August 1845, died 20th February 1917, daughter of John William Schokman and Henrietta Florentina Van Geyzel. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 107, and Vol. XXV, page 107.) He had by her—

- 1 Clara, Eleanor, born 15th March 1866, died 30th August 1937.
- 2 Edith Sophia, born 21st October 1867.
- 3 Helen Cecilia, born 13th June 1869, died 1st September 1893, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 22nd June 1892, Terence Alaric Siebel, born 23rd December 1864, died 12th September 1893, son of Samuel William Siebel and Sophia Eleanor Baillie. (B.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXVII, pages 46 and 48).

- 4 Edgar Allan Garvin, who follows under XXVII.
- 5 Cyril Arthur Pompeus, who follows under XXVIII.
- 6 Elsie Florence, born 30th August 1874, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 5th February 1896, Ernest Lfewellyn Albrecht, born 14th September 1870, died 12th October 1948, son of Christian Edward Albrecht and Sarah Caroline Gratiaen. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 84, and Vol. XXXIV, pages 72 and 73).
- 7 Hugh Percival, born 9th September 1878, died 5th May 1947, married in the Registrar's Office, Colombo, 26th December 1924, Zelig Henrietta Bartholomeusz, born 12th September 1896, daughter of Arthur Reynold Bartholomeusz, v.d., J.P., Chief Clerk, of the Audit Office, Colombo, Major in the Ceylon Light Infantry, and Anne Grace Bartholomeusz.
- 8 Vivienne Louise, born 19th February 1885, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 26th October 1911, Herbert Geary.

XX

John Godfried Lewis (Edwin) vander Straaten, born 21st December 1834, died 4th March 1899, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 25th January 1860, Sarah Nancy Van Dort, born 26th November 1838, daughter of Johannes Van Dort and Patronella Margareta Kalenberg. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, page 156, and Vol. XXVIII, pages 22 and 23). He had by her.

- 1 Peter Walter, who follows under XXIX.
- 2 Agnes Sophia, born 12th January 1864.
- 3 Edwin Arthur, who follows under XXX.
- 4 Philip Edward, born 5th May 1872, married in Singapore, Meta Newman, daughter of George Newman and Caroline Meler *nee* Toussaint. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IV, page 37, and Vol. XXIV, page 144).
- 5 Charles Mackenzie, born 4th February 1877, died 19th May 1923, married in the Baptist Church, Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo, 10th May 1905, Ethel Maud Pate.

XXI

John William vander Straaten, Proctor and Notary Public, born 18th May 1841, died 12th August 1918, married:

- (a) In Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 12th July 1866, Frances Victoria Driberg, born 8th January 1845, died 15th August 1872, daughter of Johan (John) Driberg, Proctor and Notary Public, and Harriet Agnes Lorenz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. III, page 49, and Vol. XXXIV, page 9).

- (b) In St. Paul's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 10th December 1874, Louisa Bartholomeusz, daughter of Daniel Anthony Louis Bartholomeusz, Minister of the Methodist Church, and later Dutch Translatsr, and Catherine Nancy Louisa Lorenz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. III, page 49.)

Of the first marriage, he had—

- 1 Frances Ethel, born 19th April 1867, died 6th June 1948, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 16th May 1892, James Arthur Van Langenberg, K.C., Solicitor General, born 2nd March 1866, died 30th April 1915, son of James Van Langenberg, Advocate, member of the Legislative Council, (1876), Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great, and Maria Susan Toussaint. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IV, page 37, and Vol. XLI, pages 62 and 66).
- 2 Agnes Lilian, born 5th July 1868, died 20th September 1934, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 20th February 1895, Harris Oswald Beven, born 15th August 1866, died 27th August 1947, son of John Beven, and Sophia Maria Koertz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLII, pages 114 and 115).
- 3 William Peter Driebérg, Proctor, born 4th May 1870, died 4th September 1929.

Of the 2nd marriage, he had—

- 4 Lily, born 1st March 1877, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 27th July 1905, Albert Victor Van Langenberg, J.P.U.M., Proctor and Notary Public, born 25th November 1878, died 4th August 1952, son of James Van Langenberg, Advocate, member of the Legislative Council (1876), Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great, and Maria Susan Toussaint. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IV, page 37, and Vol. XLI, pages 62 and 63).
- 5 Fanny, born 1st March 1877.

XXII

John Diyonysius vander Straaten, B.D., born 15th April 1843, died 12th August 1918, married:

- (a) Margaret Rose Mackenzie.
- (b) Mary Dolman.

Of the first marriage, he had—

- 1 Margaret Elizabeth, born 12th July 1868, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 23rd May 1888, Frederick Christian Loos, J.P., F.R.C.I., Proctor, First Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court, born 21st March 1861, son of Frederick Charles Loos, C.M.G., Proctor and Notary Public, Member of the Legislative Council, 1900—1911, First President of the

Dutch Burger Union of Ceylon, 1908—1911, and Jane Harriet Keith. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXV, page 57, and Vol. XXXIX, pages 110 and 114).

- 2 Engelbert Hugh, M.I.C.E., Provincial Engineer, Public Works Department, born 25th June 1872, married 15th June 1903 Christina Gratiaen.

Of the 2nd marriage, he had—

- 3 Gwendolyn, born 27th June 1887, died 1904.
- 4 Eleanor } born 28th August 1888.
- 5 Gladys }

XXIII

Richard Frederick vander Straaten, born 2nd December 1849, died 13th December 1873, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 5th July 1871, Eleanor Frances LaBrooy, born 11th March 1851, died 15th July 1929, daughter of Edwin George Theodore Labrooy and Frances Agnes Maria Keith. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 72, He had by her—

- 1 Philip Edwin Richard, who follows under XXXI.

XXIV

Peter Daniel Vander Straaten, born 15th August 1853, died 4th April 1928, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 12th July 1877, Ada Elizabeth Austin, born 27th March 1858, daughter of Nathaniel James Austin, Proctor, and Agnes Elizabeth Stork. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLIII, pages 21 and 78). He had by her—

- 1 Norman Leslie Austin, who follows under XXXII.
- 2 Pearl, born 5th December 1881.
- 3 Irene Shirley, born 25th March 1884, married in the Registrar's Office, Colombo, 2nd May 1907, Henry Alfred Toussaint, born 20th June 1878, died 1923, son of Peter John Gratiaen Toussaint, Proctor, and Agnes Maria Grenier. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IV, page 41, and Vol. XLII, page 24).
- 4 Edric Noble, born 31st May 1887.
- 2 George Carlton, who follows under XXXIII.

XXV

Vincent Charles Julian vander Straaten, L.R.C.P. & S., (Edin.), L.F.P. & S., (Glas.), Deputy Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Ceylon Medical Department, born 9th December 1864, died 27th August 1910, married 21st May 1888, Mary Ward, and he had by her—

- 1 Julian James Matthew, who follows under XXXIV.
- 2 Walter Herman Albert, born 23rd September 1892.

XXVI

Leonard Meredith vander Straaten, born 22nd December 1881, died 5th August 1940, married :

- (a) 22nd January 1914, Amelia Caroline Beling, born 29th April 1880, died 9th January 1931, daughter of Francis James Beling, Proctor, and Isabella.....(D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIX, page 13).
- (b) 12th December 1936, Rebecca Jane Beling, born 12th October 1878, sister of (a) *supra*.

Of the first marriage, he had—

- 1 Francis Leonard Charles, who follows under XXXV.

XXVII

Edgar Allan Garvin vander Straaten, I.S.O., Third Landing Surveyor and Office Assistant, Customs Department, Colombo, born 31st March 1871, died 12th May 1953, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 16th December 1896, Jessie Alexander Maria Beling, born 1st December 1874, died 5th January 1951, daughter of William Wright Beling, Proctor, and Maria Elizabeth Prins. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIX, page 12 and Vol. XL, page 9. He had by her—

- 1 Edgar Alexander, who follows under XXXVI.
- 2 Dorothy Cecilia, born 26th February 1902, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 22nd October 1938, William Wright Beling, born 25th July 1898, son of William Wright Beling, and Charlotte Eliza Conderlag. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, page 161, and Vol. XXXIX, page 15).
- 3 Phyllis May, born 28th January 1904, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 7th January 1926, Clarence Percival Brohier, Superintendent of Prisons, born 23rd August 1896, son of Richard Annesley Brohier, v.d., Assistant Post Master General, Major in the Ceylon Light Infantry, and Marian Almeera, de Boer. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXI, pages 203 and 209, and Vol. XXXIV, page 79).
- 4 Aelian Lorenz, who follows under XXXVII.
- 5 Mauritz Engelbert, born 26th December 1908, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 15th September 1946, Merlyn Ruth LaBrooy, born 6th August 1924, daughter of Albert Edward LaBrooy and Kathleen Margaret Jansz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 79, and Vol. XXXVIII, page 60).

XXVIII

Cyril Arthur Pompeus vander Straaten, Planter, born 14th March 1873, died 21st April 1919, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 28th July 1902, Frances Cecilia Albrecht, born 27th March 1880, died 24th July 1948, daughter of Christian Edward Albrecht and Sarah Caroline Gratiaen. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 84 and Vol. XXXIV, pages 72 and 73). He had by her—

- 1 Claude Alaric, born 26th July 1905.
- 2 Kathleen Brenda, born 25th September 1907 married :
 - (a) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 21st December 1935, Rienzi Noel South, son of Walter Wakefield South and Winifred Sparkes.
 - (b) In St. Andrew's Church, Kollupitiya, 18th August 1948, Clarence James Cooke Lourensz, born 13th March 1893, son of Johnson Ball Lourensz and Lucy Mary Cooke. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLII, page 184).

XXIX

Peter Walter vander Straaten, born 11th June 1861, married 28th March 1890, Ada Louisa Gratiaen, born 11th May 1864, died 1899, daughter of John Gerard Gratiaen and Agnes Louisa Kriekenbeek. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. V, page 70, and Vol. VI, page 19. He had by her—

- 1 Walter Gratiaen Travers, born 14th August 1891, married in 1918, Marjorie Adams.
- 2 Carl, born 10th June 1893.
- 3 Nesta Ada Agnes, born 17th December 1894.

XXX

Edwin Arthur vander Straaten, born 27th October 1867, married Eva Van Dort, and he had by her—

- 1 John William Peter, born 3rd May 1893, died 3rd October 1893.
- 2 Edith-Nancy, born 10th April 1897.

XXXI

Philip Edwin Richard vander Straaten, born 15th July 1872, died 14th July 1932, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 13th July 1899, Ethel Cramer, born 28th April 1877, died 2nd June 1919, daughter of Alfred Frederick Cramer and Sophia Caroline Flanderka. He had by her—

- 1 Eleanor Ethel, born 12th January 1900, married in S. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 7th June 1924, Bernard Dunbar Nell Toussaint son of Frederick Bernard Toussaint and Rosaline Mary Nell. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IV, page 40, and Vol. XXXVI, page 122).
- 2 Frederick Edward Richard, who follows under XXXVIII.
- 3 Enid Margaret Eileen, born 17th November 1902.
- 4 Kathleen Esme Phyllis, born 6th January 1905, married in S. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo 13th December 1930, Frederick Francis Nell Toussaint, son of Frederick Bernard Toussaint and Rosaline Mary Nell. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IV, page 40 and Vol. XXXVI, page 122).

- 5 Philip Eustace Rienzi, born 24th March 1907, died 8th November 1933 of a motor accident.
- 6 Percival Douglas Ian, born 14th August 1909.
- 7 Hubert Vivian, born 30th May 1914.
- 8 Vernon Henley, born 30th May 1914, died 14th June 1915.
- 9 Leslie Marcus Noel, born 5th October 1918.

XXXII

Norman Leslie vander Straaten, born 10th July 1880, married 7th August 1909, Edith Gertrude Solomons, and he had by her—

- 1 Algernon Leslie Spencer, born 30th October 1909, married Noble Rodrigo, who died without issue.
- 2 Philip Ronald Clifford, born 16th August 1911.
- 3 Francis Norman Douglas, born 30th August 1912.
- 4 Noel Elroy, born 11th December 1914, married in St. Mary's Cathedral, Trincomalee 1942, Marjorie Lauders, and had three children.

XXXIII

George Carlton vander Straaten, born 12th September 1889, married 30th March 1911, Adeline Tradigo, born 4th November 1893, and he had by her—

- 1 Claude Carlton George, born 8th September 1912.
- 2 Lorna, born 9th September 1915.
- 3 Audrey Adeline, born 24th May 1921.
- 4 Sheila Yvonne, born 20th January 1931.

XXXIV

Julian James Matthew vander Straaten, born 8th March 1889, died 22nd August 1950, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 5th April 1920, Lilian Ruth Rode, born 17th February 1893, daughter of Justin Archibald Rode and Louisa Evangaline Brohier (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIX, page 109, and Vol. XXXI, page 198. He had by her—

- 1 Ruth Louise Mary, born 27th April 1921.
- 2 Lucilla Doreen, born 11th April 1922.
- 3 Pamela May, born 7th May 1924.
- 4 Julian Justin Merriek, born 23rd September 1925.
- 5 Barbara Isabel, Mayflower, born 1st May 1928.

XXXV

Francis Leonard Charles vander Straaten, born 22nd August 1916, married in St. Stephen's Church, Negombo, 26th December, 1942, Lorna Beatrice Beling, born 24th March 1921, daughter of Francis James Beling, C.C.S., and Ruby Beatrice Sphrains. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 109 and Vol. XXXIX, page 16.) He had by her—

- 1 Lorna Heather, born 20th November 1945.
- 2 Roger Leonard, born 20th October 1949.

XXXVI

Edgar Alexander vander Straaten, Shipping Master, Colombo, born 8th January 1900, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 18th July 1936, Ruby Violette Elsie Wymer, born 8th July 1913, daughter of Ernest John Wymer and Violette Hope Hay-Johans of Southsea in Hampshire, England. He had by her—

- 1 Edgar Anthony John, born 16th May 1937.
- 2 Michael Allan Beling, born 13th February 1939.
- 3 Hedley Richard, born 21st August 1942.

XXXVII

Aelian Lorensz vander Straaten, Assistant Superintendent of Police, born 1st August, 1905, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 20th June 1936, Daphne Phillis Bella de Kretser, born 1st July 1910, daughter of Horace Egerton de Kretser, Provincial Engineer Public Works Department, and Margaret Ella Strathern. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 21). He had by her—

- 1 Aelian Rodney, born 10th April 1939.

XXXVIII

Frederick Edward Richard vander Straaten, born 10th January 1901, married in St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 1st December 1928, Tusie Bianche Winifred Maxworth, born 7th June 1904, daughter of James Wilfred William Maxworth and Viola Aileen Teimers. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII, page 49). He had by her—

- 1 Frederick Michael Graydon, born 16th October 1929.
- 2 Tusie Maureen Therese, born 16th October 1933.

NOTE:—For sketch of the life of the Very Reverend Dom Hildebrand vander Straaten, referred to in section X, 11, see D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII, page 124.

NOTES ON CURRENT TOPICS

Establishment of a Royal Netherlands Legation in Ceylon:

For the first time in history, an independent Royal Netherlands Legation has been established in Ceylon and a Dutch envoy in the person of Mr. D. M. de Smit, has assumed duties as the first Charge d' Affaires. Mr. Smit was the head of the Economic Department of the Netherlands Embassy in the United Kingdom for eight years.

In a recent conference with the local press, Mr. de Smit declared that it will be his pleasant duty to foster good relations between Ceylon and the Netherlands and that he hoped to meet as many of the people of this country as possible during his stay here. Mr. de Smit is reported to have added: "that is the only way of learning about people and what they are thinking."

This pleasant aim of spreading amity has long been a characteristic of the descendants of the Dutch who have coalesced as a distinct community in Ceylon. They have for the past forty five years been represented by the Dutch Burgher Union whose objects are decidedly pacific and friendly. In a common bond, and desire to cultivate friendship and kindle good will, the Union extends a welcome to Mr. de Smit and Mrs. de Smit, and records its pleasure in having an envoy of the Royal Netherlands Legation in Ceylon.

Referring to the recent devastating floods in Holland, Mr. de Smit is reported to have commented: "The response to this tragedy was fantastically generous and very heartening. We got help from all parts of the world, including Ceylon, and Holland extends its warmest thanks to you. It shows that underlying all the peoples of the world there is a basic goodwill. That is the lesson we have learned."

Ceylon's Canal—Systems:

Writing on "Inland Waterways of Ceylon" in the Ceylon Fortnightly Review, Major R. Raven-Hart, a traveller-author who has recently contributed many articles describing Ceylon says:

"When the British took over Ceylon from the Dutch, they inherited over 100 miles of inland navigation. Kalutara to Kalpitiya, Many writers claim the credit for the short artificial parts of that water for the Dutch: it is a very doubtful claim....." He continues: "for the section from Colombo to Negombo there is no room even for doubt: this part was in use during the Portuguese times.....from Negombo to the Maha Oya at Toppu, there is less certainty..... Personally, I believe that all the water-ways from Colombo northwards and probably also southwards, was Sinhalese in origin".

Obviously the article has been written for popular reading, and not for serious consideration. Nevertheless, it reflects a dangerous method of venturing to break down facts which have been accepted historically.

The delta-arms of Ceylon's rivers, and the tortuous lakes which present themselves on both east and west sides of the Island are constantly undergoing a process of conversion. There is no reason to doubt that Nature provided a route for canoe-travel over considerable distances along water-ways linking lake and lagoon. The stray extracts quoted by Major Raven-Hart from pre-Dutch writings, do not consequently prove anything to discredit the views of other writers.

On the contrary, there is ample evidence which proves that the coastal canal systems which contributed so largely to the splendid prosperity of the districts they served by establishing communication and providing cheap facilities for the transport of agricultural produce and products from the country-side to the ports—was developed and stabilized by the Dutch. This was something which was natural to the engineer whose home-country was situated from 2 to 16 feet below sea-level and intersected by a canal system. The Dutch Governor who did most to encourage and hasten construction of the water-cuts was Van Imhoff (1736-40).

Having read Major Raven-Hart's Article, a reader of The Ceylon Fortnightly Review observes:

"For years I understood that the present canal joining the Negombo Lagoon and the Kelani River was constructed by the Portuguese or the Dutch, but the other day I was told that I was wrong and that the existing canal was built by the British, there being an older and abandoned canal running parallel to the present canal between it and the Negombo Road".

In a Resolution adopted by the Council of Ceylon on the 3rd of June 1767, reference is made to a memorandum submitted by the then *Dessaive*, Mr. de Coste regarding this matter. "The Portuguese" he wrote, "have commenced to cut a channel from the Lake of Negombo to the River of Kalane for the inland navigation. We became possessed of the same..... but not finished..... and we brought this channel principally to perfection."

Several reports testify to the Maturajawela swamps through which this cut was made, as flourishing rice-fields. They were reduced to sterility by damage to the dykes and salt water which flowed into them from the canal.

In the British period, Gavin Hamilton, Agent of Revenue and Commerce, Colombo, put forward a suggestion by George Atkinson, Civil Engineer and Surveyor General, to reclaim the land for cultivation by abandoning the old Portuguese-Dutch canal, and by digging a new canal nearer the sea from the mouth of the Kelani Ganga to the Negombo Lagoon.

The cut known as the "Hamilton Canal", started in 1802 and completed in 1804 is the abiding result of the decision taken. Reclamation of the fields was abandoned owing to the war with the Kandyans. Sections of the older canal can still be traced in the swamps.

The Queen's Coronation :

On behalf of the Members of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon a deputation consisting of the President : Mr. R. L. Brohier, two immediate Past-presidents : Messrs. H. K. de Kretser and C. A. Speldewinde, and the Secretary, Mr. C. L. H. Paulusz ; waited on His Excellency, the Rt. Hon. Lord Soulbury with a request that he would be so good as to submit to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II their dutiful and loyal felicitations on the occasion of Her Coronation, as expressed below :

To Her Most Excellent Majesty Elizabeth the Second,
Queen of Ceylon and of Her other Realms and
Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.

"May it please your Most Excellent Majesty—We the Members of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon, present our humble duty, and humbly beg to offer on this, the occasion of your Majesty's Coronation, our most loyal and respectful greetings and our heartfelt congratulations; our loyal and dutiful assurances of devotion ; and our earnest prayer, that it may please God, long to preserve Your Majesty and Your Majesty's Royal Consort, their Royal Highnesses the Prince Charles and Princess Anne ; in Health and Happiness."

The request to His Excellency the Governor General and the text of the message to be transmitted to Her Majesty the Queen, were written in copper-plate on a vellum scroll bound with an orange ribbon.

On the eve of the Coronation an *al fresco* dinner, followed by dancing was held in the Union Hall. The building had been tastefully illuminated for the occasion. Vari-coloured jets presented a pretty and picturesque scene, and brought into prominence that *sine qua non* of Dutch colonial architecture—the gables, which the modern engineer incorporated when he designed the home for the Union. A convivial and happy time was spent by the large gathering present. In the course of the evening the President briefly called attention to the significance of the occasion. A loyal toast was drunk, the band playing the opening bars of the British and Ceylon national anthems.

New use for Pettah (Dutch) Cemetery :—

At twilight on Thursday evening the 25th of June seven caskets were placed within a cement vault in the corner of what used to be Colombo's most historic cemetery, the Old Dutch Burial Ground in the Pettah or outer-town of old Colombo. The caskets contained the mortal remains found when the graves were dug up and the vaults were opened last year, to prepare the ground for the building operations since carried out on the site of the cemetery.

After a short simple ceremony by a Minister of the Dutch Reformed Church of Ceylon, the relics which had thwarted the earlier commitment: "earth to earth, dust to dust, and ashes to ashes", were re-interred in the new resting place prepared for them.

This Cemetery, which was in regular use up to 60 years ago since the middle of the seventeenth century, was the "kerkof"—or burial ground of the Dutch militia and civilians. In later years it was used for the burial of British residents.

The Consistory of the Dutch Reformed Church in whom the Cemetery was vested by one of the Articles of Capitulation drawn up when the Dutch possessions in the Island were ceded to the British, had for some years gone been negotiating with Government for concurrence in a proposal to commercialise the site. After protracted conversations and correspondence, permission to do so was granted. The ceremony which took place was a happy compromise.

Sentiment in these modern times cannot hold its own against the practical, effect must yield to usefulness, and so this charming old—world corner of the Pettah, its crooked sooriya—trees, stories of ghosts and other associations, its massive brick—built monuments, its vaults and other hoary memorials, its atmosphere of sedate sanctity which served as a bulwark to shut out a work—a—day world throbbing around it—all these, and more, have gone, yielding to the flood of industrial enterprise.

One hundred and fifty-six headstones have been recovered, block and tackle being used in many cases to shift them. A corner of the old cemetery is set apart for the monuments. Some are let into a cement flooring, others are placed upright against a wall.

IN MEMORIAM

EDGAR ALLAN GARVIN VAN DER STRAATEN I. S. O.

The Burgher Community has in recent times afforded a rich harvest to the angel of death. Among the best-known men carried away, a wide circle of friends must have mourned the passing of Edgar van der Straaten. He died in his sleep on the 12th of May at his residence Dorington, Inner Flower Road, Colombo. The words of eloquent eulogium: "A wise counsellor, a strong and energetic administrator, a capable organiser", are fully testified by the characteristics which made Edgar van der Straaten a faithful servant of the Public, the handy man of the Customs, and a widely trusted member of the Community to which he belonged.

Edgar van der Straaten was born on the 31st of March 1871. He was the Eldest of the three sons of Edmund Arthur van der Straaten. Apparently not blessed with the scholastic talents which placed a number of his countrymen of that period in prominent places in public life, he began to earn a living as a clerk in the Colombo Kachcheri at the early age of 18 years. Nevertheless, under the influence and discipline of that form of genius described as the capacity for taking infinite pains with whatever one set oneself to, Edgar van der Straaten never looked back. At the age of 21, he transferred to the Customs Department where by dint of sheer determination, and personal hard work he brought himself abreast of the best of his contemporaries and out-distanced most others.

Edgar van der Straaten was comparatively young when he was appointed to the Chief Clerkship of the Customs. He held this office for nine years earning the encomiums of repeated Principal Collectors, giants like Bowes and Tyrrell. They were men who demanded a high standard of work commensurate with their own high abilities. As a Landing Surveyor, to which post he was promoted in 1921, he soon came to be regarded as the "handy man" of the Customs, and continued to enjoy the confidence and respect of both superior and subordinate staff alike. His appointment as Office Assistant to the Principal Collector of customs, in addition to his substantive duties, connoted the abounding confidence he commanded.

Seated facing him at his desk in his bungalow, I have perused many a minute and spontaneous testimonial left by distinguished officials he served under, which he was pleased to let me see. These indicated intimate personal regard for him, and a sense of personal loss whenever in the course of changes in official circles their paths diverged. And when, a Principal Collector of the calibre of F. Bowes, C. M. G. was even prepared to condone the action of his Chief Clerk for failing to transmit a minute of his to Government because he considered the matter should be re-discussed, it seems clear that personality had its effect, and that the man and his worth had been estimated at their true value. It is hardly therefore strange to find that an individuality such

as his was not forgotten even when those with whom he worked had long left these shores. Few tokens are more symbolic of these happy friendships than a packet of letters from Sir Wilfrid and Lady Southorn, which he prized.

In 1925, in recognition of the valuable services he rendered to the Government, Edgar van der Straaten was awarded the Imperial Service Order. How near he came to refusing to be invested is another matter. It was usual at that time to present all medals—Imperial, Police, Ambulance and Certificates, at a mass police parade on Galle Face. Mr. van der Straaten, the only recipient of an Imperial honour that year refused to parade in line with three European Police Sergeants who were recipients of minor decorations! The I. G. Police was perturbed. The Principal Collector of Customs was more appreciative of the situation. By happy compromise Edgar van der Straaten was invested with his medal first at the hands of the Governor, and the other decorations and certificates were distributed later.

In 1931, Edgar van der Straaten retired from the Customs Service having reached the age-limit. None felt more greatly the termination of his eminent services than the subordinate grade of officer—each and all hand-picked by him and trained under iron discipline in a hard school. There were many indeed who were disposed to, and did urge motive to his method of selection, but none could find reason to question that intuition which helped him to pick the right man for the right place. Thus, if his own countrymen attracted his sympathy or his interest, he was in a strong position to despise bickerings suggesting communal preference, or the need to prove justification for his selections. The value of his service, and help to many a youth who offered promise of making good has not found the glare of publicity, but lies inscribed in the hearts and minds of those, the current of whose lives he turned to best account. The tender emotions of affection and sorrow offered in sincerity and reverent sympathy by many of the men he had guided and helped do greatest honour to his memory.

All we have so far reviewed concerns the official side of Edgar van der Straaten's activities. Let us look at the man in relation to his interest in the Union. This never slackened since the day he became, like his father, an original member. Possessing such a remarkable ability for drive and organisation, and a restless energy, it is but natural to find him serving as a member of the first Committee formed at the inception of the Union. He was next selected to fill the office of Entertainment Secretary and so efficiently did he organise the affairs of various functions connected with the Union that in later stages when no longer directly responsible, he was always drawn in when any function demanding the most capable management had to be organised. Special mention must be made in this connection, to the memorable and outstanding success he made of the dinner held in the Union's hall on the 26th of November, 1927 when H. E. the Governor Sir Herbert J. Stanley, was the chief guest.

When the old Dutch Burgher Union club came in for bad times during the dark days of the first world war, when at a critical point in the history of the Union a Treasurer had to be found with a high reputation for efficiency who could straighten out the financial position, and when time and again an effort had to be made to revive a lost cause in the interests of the aims and objects of the Union, it was Edgar van der Straaten who stepped in to shoulder the burden and to "pull the chestnuts out of the fire." With dogged resolution he threw himself into such work and was amply rewarded by the gratification of seeing matters once again on a satisfactory footing.

To such loyal and unstinted service must be added his loyalty to the Cause. Edgar van der Straaten always strove to uphold its highest ideals and aims. He never tired of telling how he was inspired by personal talks with the founder of the Dutch Burgher Union, to have a great regard for and the urge to carry on the work established by Mr. R. G. Anthonisz for our welfare as a Community. To this end he proved he would never be deterred by difficulties. He scorned the idle sneers of the thoughtless, and the weak fears of the timid. He met with his sternest disapproval all attempted departure from the strict path of correctitude, and the harmful insistence on individual views. Educational and Social Service activities which have been a leading feature of the Union's activities received his fullest support. No object in recent years as I can testify, attracted his sympathy and interest so deeply as the scheme which sought to ease the burden of the aged. The St. Nikolaas Home for old people established recently by the Union owes its existence in no small measure to the initiative and drive of Edgar van der Straaten. If greatness be estimated not by startling exploits and daring deeds of mighty enterprise, but by the value of the service of which any section of humanity has been the gainer by a concentration of effort in the cause of duty, Edgar van der Straaten's was indeed a great life. He has placed the Union under a deep debt of gratitude, for loyalty and unstinted service.

Forced as Edgar van der Straaten was to take his place in public and social functions and play a leading part at one period as a club-man, his was in essence one of those quiet, retiring, self-contained natures which found truest happiness in his home, amongst his household gods—varied it might be with pleasant social intercourse with his select circle of friends. Nearly half a century ago he was caught up by the stream of migration caused by a mounting flood of industrial enterprise, of trade and commerce, which beginning in the latter half of the 19th century forced the Burghers from ancestral holdings in the shadow of the Wolvendaal Church into the suburbs of the City of Colombo. In the spacious surroundings of his new house "Dorington", off Flower Road, Edgar van der Straaten found larger room for his methodical habits and love of order. Here he lived to celebrate the 25th and 50th Anniversary of his marriage with Jessie Alexandra Maria Beling solemnised in the Wolvendaal Church on the 16th of December 1896. Here, shortly before his death, he suffered a severe

blow when he lost his wife a helpmate who unostentatiously served her home, family and Community, and by numberless unremembered acts of kindness was a silent influence on those with whom she lived or moved. They leave behind three sons and two daughters, the latter being Mrs. C. P. Brohier and Mrs. W. W. Beling.

It would indeed be most un-natural to say that Edgar van der Straaten was free from failings. That would be presenting an impossible and incorrect picture of him, for he had defects in aggressively marked degree. Popularity, with the less solid qualities which it denotes was in his estimation but a poor substitute for deviation when he had once made up his mind where he considered his duty lay.

His combative instincts found greatest expression outside his official business, in Committees, on Boards and in connection with the affairs of the Dutch Reformed Church in which he played a part.

The influence of such men as Edgar van der Straaten does not cease with death. Old, as well as young, have something to learn from his career. Well had he done his duty. His death has created a void which in many ways, and more particularly as it applies to the Dutch Burgher Union, it will be difficult to fill.

R. L. B.

Dr. V. R. SCHOKMAN.

The Union, no less than the Community, has suffered a severe loss by the death of Dr. Vivian Schokman. Born in 1887, Dr. Schokman received his education at Royal College, and on leaving school chose Medicine as his vocation. He had a creditable course at the Medical College, and on passing out elected to join Government Service. He served at Badulla, Dikoya and Udugama, and lastly as Assistant Port Surgeon, Colombo. Here he came in touch with mercantile circles who recognised his value as a Doctor. After serving for five years in the Port, Dr. Schokman decided to start in private practice, and it was not long before the wisdom of this step became apparent. He commanded a good practice and soon found his work beyond the capacity of a single man to cope with.

Himself a good cricketer, he filled a large place in the world of Sport, and no important event connected with these activities was complete without him. He was President of the Burgher Recreation Club for many years and devoted much of his spare time to bringing the Club up to a high state of efficiency. In 1946 he was elected President of the Dutch Burgher Union and did good work in this capacity. He held the Office for two years.

But it was not in the realm of Sport and Social Service alone that Dr. Schokman excelled. He was equally interested in Politics, and represented the Community in the old Legislative Council, and later in the State Council where his advice was much sought after. Local Government also had its attraction for him, and he enjoyed the distinction of being elected Mayor of Colombo for two successive years. He possessed rare powers of organisation, and owed not a little of his success to these qualities. His death will be very keenly felt.

J. R. T.

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The following tribute to the late Dr. V. R. Schokman comes from his old friend Mr. W. T. Greswell of Bicknoller, Taunton, Somersetshire, and was published in the Fortnightly Review. — "I wish to say how very sorry I am to hear of the death of my old and very loyal friend, Dr. V. R. Schokman. The memory of his kind and genial personality has always been with me, and my close acquaintance with him an example of the best that cricket can foster.

"As President of the Burgher Recreation Club he was quiet and unassuming; yet his presence there was happily omnipotent and possessive. At our annual cricket match which became quite an event in the sporting calendar, he was a much respected and well loved father of a family and I shall never forget the lavish hospitality with which he and his "children", the B. R. C. team, entertained us. His after-lunch speeches on these occasions were delights of oratory, full of wit and of faultless fluency. He was truly a man of great character and charm, whom, in this life of meetings and partings, it was well to have known."

THINGS IN GENERAL

(From a Woman's Standpoint)

BY ATHENA

Many girls and a great many older people as well, are like the child who cried for the moon. They always long to have things that lie quite out of their reach, and the inability to get them creates a sort of discontent which they permit to cloud their lives and embitter their natures.

The law of compensation enters very largely into the providential ordering of human affairs, and anyone who cultivates the powers of observation must notice that there is some redeeming feature in the lives of the poorest and apparently the most unhappily circumstanced. While on the other hand, those whom we count the most prosperous, have some crumple in their bed of rose-leaves which, though small in the eyes of others, is of sufficient importance in their own eyes to make them unhappy.

The very people who seem to have absolutely no troubles generally possess a wonderful gift for inventing them. A rainy day, an unbecoming hat, or a bad dinner, is sufficient to depress them for hours, while many who are heavily handicapped in life, battling with poverty weakness or advancing age, with hardly anything to cheer, and everything to sadden, are rejoicing in buoyant spirits and seem to be enjoying life such as it is with all its drawbacks.

The young have an idea that it is their special prerogative to be happy provided they are not doing wrong, and most often expect to find happiness in their surroundings and circumstances rather than in themselves. Girls should make up their minds to the fact that they cannot have everything and decide what they want most, making allowance for necessary unpleasantnesses and deficiencies which must attend their choice, remembering that there are drawbacks and disadvantages in everything.

For instance, there is the girl whose lot it is to live in a large town. She is a great lover of nature, and passionately fond of all its beauties of scenery, flowers, sunsets, and moonlight. It is a rare pleasure to her to be in the country to wander through quiet lanes, amidst all green and growing things, to see wild flowers and ferns, and hear the far off cooing of the doves. It gives her a rapturous moment to climb some hill, and feast her eyes on the wonderful panorama spread out before

her. She has a soul that can realise something of the glories of immortality and eternity, amidst nature's sublime beauties, and feel all petty annoyances sink into significance. She could feel poetry if she could not utter it. Then she feels herself dreadfully ill-used at being condemned to live in a town. But if unexpectedly she is brought face to face with the probability of leaving the town and going to live in the country, she finds herself confronted with drawbacks here, too. For the first time in her life she realises that she will have to leave her friends, all the conveniences of town life, its gaieties, to face the sameness and solitude of life in the country. She would, if it were possible have the unattainable, in other words, the poetry and sweetness of the country, with the stir variety and gaiety of the town.

Girls should try to acquire the habit of taking everything into consideration when about to make a choice of any importance. Most particularly does this hold good with regard to the question of marriage. It is at the present day no uncommon thing for intelligent young women to make up their minds that the single life is vastly to be preferred to the cares, suffering and restricted liberty that marriage imposes. While youth remains, particularly if she has a comfortable home, and congenial work, and occupations, she has no reason to regret this decision. She compares her freedom from anxiety, leisure and liberty with the chequered lives of many of her married friends, and congratulates herself on her advantages. But as the years pass on, and death robs her of dear relations, and friends get immersed in their own home interests and drop off, she feels lonely and left out in the cold. She seems left out of everything and then regrets the decision of her youth, but she forgets that while her married friend was kept awake night after night by a troublesome baby, or forced to give up all her own little pleasures to gratify a domineering husband, she was as free as air to go whither she pleased and gratify every whim and fancy. Her youth and beauty were not prematurely robbed by the cares of married life, nor her health undermined by the duties of a wife and mother.

In the same way many a young wife in her new home finds the long day dreary in her husband's absence, and pines for her father's cheery house and the society of her brothers and sisters. Yet she has the compensation of being with the man she loves, to make up for the other disadvantages.

Thus at every turn as we go through life, under a variety of aspects we find the law of compensation counterbalancing its disadvantages, and happy as well as wise are they who give up yearning for things beyond their reach, and make the best of things as they are, believing that all drawbacks will be made good in some other way.

Women plume themselves on their Christianity and kind heartedness,—yet they gossip. It is one of life's glaring inconsistencies that a woman claims to be a Christian, and yet puts no curb on a slanderous, malicious tongue. For the woman who gossips, directly disobeys the injunction of that greatest of teachers, "judge not."

Are you one of the women who gossip? Or do you just listen while others do it? Have you ever listened quietly, while some woman's reputation was torn to shreds behind her back, her fair name besmirched, while you by your very silence perhaps through lack of moral courage, give consent to the robbery of her good name.

"The tongue is a fire," and the surest of all roads to evil—evil for oneself and evil for others. Reputations are ruined, and hearts made to ache and break all because of some tongue that cannot be burned. The world is full of kind hearts, noble deeds, and many other good and lovely things that it would inspire us to talk about, and why should we overlook all these things and rather take pleasure in talking about the frailty of some woman's morals, or anything that reflects the worst side of another woman.

I do not think it is putting it too strongly to say that gossip is at the bottom of much of the world's unhappiness. There is not a town or a village, on the face of the earth, that does not hold at least one person with a slanderous tongue. To such a one, the moral lapses of their neighbours, or even their best friends, form their chief topic in conversation. I really think it is often not so much the desire to harm the person discussed, as the delight of thrilling their interested listeners, that makes many a woman say or repeat malicious things. Many women excuse themselves and delude themselves into thinking they are not gossiping "just talking things over amongst friends, who would never repeat them."

But how do you know they will not? If you cannot keep this tit-bit of scandal to yourself, how can you expect another woman to do it? Hundreds of years ago a wise old Roman gave us this caution—"Thy friend has a friend, and thy friend's friend a friend—be discreet!" "Now discretion means silence." If each one of us who heard a piece of slander would just lock it up within ourselves and keep it there, that calumny would die of starvation. Do you ever reflect as you repeat a bit of unkind criticism that you are giving it food for travelling further?

There is another type of woman who excuses her bit of gossip, or malicious repetition, of some unkind tale to the very person concerned by saying, "Well I did not want to leave the poor thing in ignorance of all that people were saying about her!" Can you imagine how delightedly she must have watched her victim's face while relating it? And can you picture her enjoyment as she sees the poor thing wince, while she mentally rehearses the fresh story she will make of this for further repetitions.

Some women once heatedly discussed the sins of a man who had married one of their friends. According to them, he was guilty of everything that was wrong while their greatest regret was that his young wife was in happy ignorance of it all. They thought it their duty to enlighten her and one undertook the task thinking she was a real friend in doing this. Imagine the poor young wife, happy because of her ignorance, having the scales thus rudely torn from her eyes, and robbed of her dearest possession—her faith in her husband. Could anything be more cruel! While these women were trying to delude themselves into fancying they were acting for her good, they were really actuated by motives of curiosity as to how she would act when the truth was revealed, which would form the subject of more gossiping amongst themselves.

Most of us know Ella Wheeler Wilcox's famous lines :

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.

Only to be kind! Just the kindness that looks for the good qualities and not the bad; that never speaks about the failures but makes much of the successes; just the kindness that prompts us to keep a silent tongue about the faults of others. It often looks as if a slander is repeated, because the teller wants to make it known that others are no better than she is. But, remember we can never rise by standing on the broken character of another.

Though gossip is the most common of social evils, I have never met a person who would admit she was guilty of it. There was once a lady who would begin her stories by saying "now this is not gossip—I never gossip. I tell facts." And she certainly did tell facts. Her tongue was feared and dreaded. And as to the facts she told, was she any happier, or her listeners any the better for them? Was the world any better for knowing that the scandals they had only suspected were really true after all?

I have heard of a charming woman who actually got unpopular because she did not gossip, and what was counted worse still, did not allow gossip to be told in her presence. She refused to remain in the room if any one was talked about, and said she had no time for such things, life was too short for it. The result was that she was called eccentric, and all her large-heartedness, her charity, mental attainments, her love of music and books, her delight in fun and social good times, counted as nothing against it.

No really intellectual woman can find any pleasure in gossip. With all the beauties and literature, and the wonders of the whole world to draw on for topics in conversation, what need would such a woman have for the petty small talk of gossip! It is the women with small minds and narrow lives, poor outlooks and meagre mental capacity who find in gossip a delight.

ATHENA.

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