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# Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.



*"Eendracht maakt Macht"*

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

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## Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

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*"Eendracht maakt Macht."*

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# Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

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## A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

*A Lecture delivered at the D. B. U. Hall on the 29th  
August, 1924, by R. G. Anthonisz.*

I am not sure that I do not owe you some apology for the attempt to draw your minds away even for a little while from the all-absorbing present, with its stern demands on your vigilance and your activities, to a somewhat distant past in which most of the things which govern our lives to-day were unknown. But I have thought that a few glimpses of a bygone time, in which the conditions of life were different from ours, in which the surrounding aspect breathed of greater tranquility and the thoughts of men were less distracted than now, would, at least, be of some interest to you if it did not serve to enliven your spirits a little in this busy life of to-day.

A hundred years ago, to be quite exact, would take us to the year 1824. But the period I propose to deal with here is the quarter century counting back from that date to the time when this island was ceded to Great Britain by the Dutch. In short, what I shall attempt to present you with is a view of men and things here during the early years of the British occupation. Several accounts of this period have been published from time to time, beginning with that of Captain Robert Percival, whose book appeared in the year 1803, and that of the Reverend James Cordiner in 1807. All these

writers have treated this particular subject in rather a general way. Quite recently an excellent little book was brought out by the late Mr. J. P. Lewis entitled "Ceylon in Early British Times," much in the lines in which I would wish to treat my subject here. But his book dealt mainly with the sayings and doings of the English community. I am sorry to find that no serious attempt has yet been made to place before the present generation any similar facts relating to the Dutch community: no clear notion is to be obtained from published accounts of what manner of people they were, how they lived, and how they occupied themselves.

I shall first speak of the elements of which this Dutch community was composed. The following passage, from an old writer,\* makes this sufficiently clear to us. He says: "The Dutch community in Ceylon is composed of various European races who obtained service in the Dutch East India Company, and who are known to the natives of the Island generally as the Dutch, they having no idea that these come from different states in Europe. This composite European Dutch community is again sub-divided according to the descent of the children: the child of two Europeans was called a *pustiz*, the child of a European father and a *pustiz* mother was called a *castiz*, and the child of a European or *castiz* father and a native mother was called a *mixtiz*." It is easy from this description to understand the application of these terms. A European, strictly, would have been one born in Europe, whatever his nationality, while the terms *pustiz* and *castiz* were applied to those born in the island of pure European descent. A *mixtiz* would be one who was European on his father's side and native on his mother's side. The object of this differentiation is not very clear, unless it was intended for social purposes. Much distinction was not made in the privileges accorded to the separate classes. At any rate, if a rule was based on this, the rule seems to have been violated to such a degree as to leave the matter in uncertainty. At the time then of the arrival of the British the

\*J. C. Wolfs: *Reizen naar Ceilon*.

Dutch community, i.e., the civil and military servants of the Dutch East India Company, who belonged to the Government, and the Burghers or free citizens, who carried on commercial or industrial pursuits on their own account, was composed of these three classes: 1. Europeans; 2. *Castizes* (including *Pustizes*), the children of pure Europeans; and 3. *Mixtizes*, the children of European fathers and native mothers. Of the rest of the town dwellers, which consisted of the *Tupasses* or half caste descendants of the Portuguese, of the *Libertines* or freed slaves, and of the pure natives employed in various capacities, there is neither time nor space to speak here.

The sayings and doings of the early British have been chronicled, as I have said, in more than one place, and by no one so well as by Mr. J. P. Lewis in his admirable little book. He has not said much about the Dutch and has not treated them unkindly; but, after all, what we know of our own ancestors of this period is either very scanty or grossly inaccurate. It is well-known that some English writers of the period, and several of later times, have painted the old Dutch residents in Ceylon in colours by no means flattering to them. Some of these accounts are manifestly malicious and actuated by ill-feeling, and appear on their face to be false and untrue. One name especially has come down to us as the most prominent of these detractors, viz., Captain Robert Percival of the 18th Foot. There is no need to cite any passages from his book; but when he makes such a statement as this: "The Dutch ladies have a custom of cracking their joints, and rubbing them over with oil, which renders them uncommonly supple," one may form an idea of the general tenour of his description and the extent of his perverse misrepresentation. Lord Valentia, who visited Ceylon shortly after this, bears witness to the feeling of resentment which Percival had created in the breasts of the Dutch people here. Speaking of a visit paid by him to Galle with the Governor, the Honourable Frederick North, he says: "The Governor gave a ball to introduce me to the Dutch ladies there, but they had taken prodigious offence at a character

given to them in a work lately published by an English officer, and would not therefore visit an English Governor." Yet not to be outdone in wanton abuse by a writer on the spot, Percival's reviewer, Sydney Smith, in England, carried the slander to such an extravagant point in a passage that has become quite notorious that we could only express surprise at a writer of his eminence thus vilifying an unoffending and respectable community of which he had no first hand knowledge. In view of this it will, I am sure, afford us some satisfaction to know that these progenitors of ours of a hundred years ago were not so black as they have been painted nor of such a character as to make us their descendants blush for their vices and imperfections. We shall see that on the other hand they lived cleanly, honest, and respectable lives, surrounded by such refinements as the age and their circumstances provided.

The condition to which the Dutch inhabitants were brought by the cession of the island to the British is a subject upon which much light may be obtained both from contemporary records and from traditional accounts that have come down to us. That no wholesale exodus of the Dutch inhabitants, such as we often hear mentioned, did take place at the capitulation is abundantly clear. It was sometime before even the military, who had become prisoners of war, could be temporarily transported, while the commercial servants generally had to remain in their offices for a couple of years to close the books of accounts. During this period they were allowed, what was called, "a reasonable allowance" for their services by the British authorities. Some idea may be formed of the number of Company's servants thrown out of employment from the fact that the lists of those for whom subsistence allowances were asked from the British authorities, contained 60 for Colombo, 75 for Jaffna, 75 for Galle and Matara and smaller lists for various outstations. At this time, while the issue of the war was still doubtful, they would seem to have been cherishing the hope that the island would yet be restored to the Dutch. Any such hope should have been abandoned when, on the 27th March, 1802, the

treaty of Amiens decided that "all the possessions and establishments in the island of Ceylon" belonging to the Dutch were to be ceded to the British. But so firm had been the belief that the termination of the war would see them placed in *statu quo* that there were some stubborn souls who for many years nourished this forlorn hope amid all the changes and upheavals that were going on around them. From this cause, probably, and no doubt also from the pain and inconvenience attending the breaking up of their life-long homes, a great many of these Dutch people felt reluctant to leave Ceylon in a hurry. They considered it best to bide their time. But they were not allowed to be arbiters of their own fate, or at least to make choice of their future allegiance. The crisis came in 1806. Up to this time those who had no ties in Ceylon and those who were sufficiently wealthy betook themselves to Batavia or Holland, electing to await the issue of events there. Those born here, whose domestic interests were in Ceylon, and also those whose means were small remained in the island awaiting their convenience. But on the 22nd October, 1806, there was issued the fiat of the British Government which compelled them to make their choice at once. The Dutch had been sending cartel ships for the transport to Batavia of such of their folk here as were prepared to leave the island. These ships were also the channel by which communication was carried on with Batavia. The British Government now decided to put a stop to this. By an official advertisement bearing the date above-mentioned the Governor, Sir Thomas Maitland, proclaimed that after the departure of two cartel ships, which were then about to leave, all such communications as were hitherto carried on should cease, and that no other ship would be allowed to enter the harbour in future for the purpose of transporting the Dutch inhabitants to Batavia. The time allowed them for decision was scarcely ten days! The proclamation went on to state that all the subsistence allowances granted to those who had been turned out of billet would cease at the end of the month. It might be imagined what consternation this peremptory order created among the poor, forlorn people,

already left desolate and miserable by the loss of their livelihood. A great many of them quickly made up their minds to avail themselves of this last opportunity. Others, whose circumstances prevented their doing this, asked to be allowed to remain, but were required to state their reasons. The English agents at the several centres received instructions, without loss of time, to prepare separate lists of the two classes—those who elected to go and those who asked to remain. Most melancholy are some of the statements made by the latter, giving the reasons for their inability to depart. One high official was at the time bed-ridden and begged that on that account he might be allowed to remain. As a matter of fact he only survived this request but a few months. Another, the son of a former *commandeur* of Galle, and himself an *onderkoopman* in the Dutch service, could not leave as his creditors would not let him do so. Another, a vice-president of the Landraad Court, was advanced in years and feeble in health and wished to bury his bones here. Another was nearly blind and could go about only with great difficulty. Nearly all expressed the desire to leave, but pleaded inability to do so at such short notice. Those who elected to depart were required to furnish, in tabular form, information as regards the members of their household: wife, children, number of servants and number of slaves. But, with all the hasty preparations which these had made, nearly three-fourths of their number were compelled to withdraw their application and eventually remain in Ceylon. This happened under the following circumstances. In the first place, it was found that the accommodation in the ships was very inadequate, and also, that it was far from suitable for the conveyance of the more delicate members of the families. Reports had also arrived by the later of the two ships giving gloomy accounts of the conditions prevailing in Batavia at the time. Epidemics of fever of a severe type were said to be raging, from which several deaths had occurred. Above all it was stated that there were no vacancies in the service for those who went, and that many of those who had previously gone were still unprovided for. In a letter from one of these to a friend here

the following passage occurs: "Do not leave Ceylon just now. You will fare worse here than there. There is sickness all over the place, and we are very unhappy." I had the privilege of intimate acquaintance with one or two of a past generation, who were living at the time and remembered the circumstances which prevailed here. One of these had a vivid picture in his mind of the preparations for departure when he was a little boy: of the piled up boxes and the desolate empty house; then of the sudden change of plan; of the parting with some of those who went away; and afterwards, all the trouble of refurnishing and settling down again in the old house. These facts give us some idea of how it was with the old Dutch folk at this time. The following passage from a well-known contemporary English writer\* may I think be taken to describe their situation pretty accurately. "The Dutch inhabitants of Ceylon, excepting a few families, are reduced to circumstances of great indigence: but by rigid and meritorious economy, and some of the lesser labours of industry they maintain an appearance in the eyes of the world, sometimes affluent and gay, always decent and respectable. They are chiefly composed of officers (prisoners of war) with their families, and widows and daughters of deceased civil and military servants of the Dutch East India Company. The greater part of them are proprietors of houses, which they let, with considerable advantage to the English inhabitants. If a poor family should only possess one good house they retire into a smaller or less convenient one, and enjoy the benefit of the surplus of the rent, which they receive by relinquishing a more comfortable dwelling." This would indicate to some extent the manner in which they maintained themselves and succeeded in keeping the wolf from the door. But the British Government discovered that it had need of the services of many of these Dutch Company's servants, and some of them were ready to accept the offer of employment made to them. Amongst the first who took the oath of allegiance to King George III and received appointments were Gerard Joan Fybrands and Stephen Baron van Lyndon,

\*Rev. Jas. Cordiner: *Description of Ceylon*,



*ondercoopliden* or Junior Merchants in the Company's service, who were appointed members of the Civil Raad under the British Government, and, for their readiness to transfer their allegiance to the British, received from the Government, besides the pay of their offices, an extra allowance of 100 and 75 rix dollars respectively for their lives. Other appointments were that of Frederick Baron Mylius as Fiscal of Colombo, Philip Jacob Dormieux as Dutch translator to Government with Albert Hendrik Giesler as his deputy. Jan Hendrick Ludovici of the medical department of the Dutch Company was appointed Assistant Surgeon at Matara and eventually rose to be Garrison Surgeon of that Station. But the great majority of the Company's servants kept aloof, and it appears from a petition presented to Governor North at a subsequent date by Fybrands and van Lynden that their action in so readily becoming British subjects raised them "many enemies amongst the principal Dutch inhabitants." Yet few of these could hold out long; so that, when a Government Proclamation in 1802 created a large number of Sitting Magistrates' Courts throughout the island, there was quite a crop of Dutch Company's servants appointed to the posts which had to be filled. It would take too much time and space in a brief survey of events such as this to mention the names of the persons who were thus provided with employment. It is, I believe, well known that many of our Dutch Burgher families to-day trace from ancestors who at this time became Sitting Magistrates and other functionaries under the British Government. Among the early appointments to which reference might be made here was that of Jacob Nicolaas Mooyaart (afterwards anglicised to James Nicholas Mooyaart) who rose in the course of time to be acting Auditor General of the Colony. His brother Anthony Noel Mooyaart elected to go to Batavia and rose to eminence in the service of the Netherlands. His descendants, as Dutch subjects, are still living in Holland, while the sons of the former, viz., the Venerable Archdeacon Edward Mooyaart, Mr. Henry Mooyaart of the Ceylon Civil Service and the Reverend Richard James Mooyaart, retired to England and

left descendants there. Other appointments were those of Joan Gerard Kriekenbeek and Cornelis Arnoldus Prins, appointed proctors, who both acted as Advocate Fiscal at different times. This post corresponded to that of Attorney General at the present day. Johannes Hendrick Reckerman became Fiscal of Colombo and Gualterus Schneider, Land Surveyor, and eventually, Surveyor General of the island. A number of young men who had acquired some scientific knowledge was appointed land surveyors of districts.

Whilst these secured employment and threw in their lot with the new rulers many still remained stubborn and refused to take service under the British, depending on their own slender resources and endeavouring to eke out a livelihood by various means that came to hand. It was at this period that the reduced circumstances of some gentlemen of the Company's service compelled them to take to occupations even beneath the status which they had formerly occupied. Some took to industrial pursuits, but most of them had recourse to trade in various forms. Those with any capital imported what they called "Europe goods," others opened little shops for the sale of local commodities. We find Johan Frederick Conradi, who held a high office in the Dutch service, take up the business of auctioneer and commission agent. Others who took up the same business were Carl Christiaan Müller, Johan Reinier Fryer and Hendrick Dirksz. To most of these Company's servants, from the highest to the lowest, the commercial calling appears to have made a special appeal. Governor van Angelbeek, who, we are told, immediately after the capitulation, settled down to the life of an ordinary burgher, kept a small vessel in the roads of Colombo which was used to ply between Ceylon and the opposite coast. In the year 1800, Commandeur Fretz, living in retirement at Galle, applied for permission to forward 56 bales of cotton goods to Europe. Count August Anton van Ranzow became baker to the troops at Galle. Of those who went in for trade in particular Cornelis Everhardus Potger kept a shop in the Fort of Colombo, where, in 1808, he offered for sale various goods imported from the Cape, such as dried



fruits—apples, pears, figs, peaches, etc.—as well as Cape Madeira, a wine very popular with the Dutch inhabitants in those days. He also, a little later, sold "China goods," by which I believe was meant, not Chinaware, but various articles procured from China, such as nankin, silk hats, tea, sugar candy, etc. Willem Harmen Maas in his shop in Baillie Street advertized for sale what he called "all sorts of goods." Hendrick de Haan in 1812 had a shop in Main Street where he exhibited choice assortments of jacconet and coloured cambric for dresses, which he imported direct from Europe. We might go on naming other enterprising tradesmen of those days, but this would I think suffice to show how nearly all the small trade, now in the hands of the Moorish, Parawa and Sinhalese shopkeepers, was then in those of the Dutch Burghers. A great deal of the shipping then was by coast-wise vessels and by small craft that plied between Ceylon and the neighbouring continent and islands. These vessels were commanded by some of the Dutch Burghers of Ceylon. To name a few, there was Jan Grabau, master of the schooner *Nancy*, Bernard Passe of the schooner *Eliza*, Olke Edema of the brig *Ann* and Andreas Kern of another schooner *Nancy*. It was of course at a much later period that Barend de Waas, commanded the Government steam packet *Seaforth*. Whilst the men by pursuing these various callings maintained themselves in decent respectability the poor widows and maiden ladies found suitable occupation for themselves. One of their most fruitful sources of income was by the keeping of bakeries. These bakeries for which licenses appeared to have been readily granted by the British Government were numerous in those days. In 1806 no less than 45 persons, not necessarily all ladies, received these licenses. The price of a  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. loaf of bread was fixed at 3 pice, equal to about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cents, and the prices ranged up to 18 pice or 27 cents for a 6 lb. loaf. It would be interesting to name here some of the descriptions of bread stuffs and biscuit turned out at these establishments. Besides the ordinary white bread, tasty forms of whole-meal or brown bread was much in vogue. There was also *zuikerbrood* or sugar bread, *annice koekjes*, *letteren*, *borrowes* and

numerous confections which have now long gone out of use and memory.

In 1802 King George III ordered the formation of two regiments of infantry for service in Ceylon, the rank and file of which was to consist of Malays and certain native races. The European officers to be appointed to the corps were to be on the same footing in all respects as other officers of His Majesty's service. This was an opportunity for the employment of a few of the younger members of the Dutch community, and the sons of some of the late Company's servants received commissions. Thus we see the following appointed as lieutenants and 2nd lieutenants in His Majesty's army: Charles Driberg, Gerard Giesler, Alfred and Théodore Mylius, George Tranchell, Martin Conradi and Gerard Fretz.

By the end of the quarter century we are dealing with all the Government offices came to be filled by some of the old Dutch Company's servants and their sons. So twenty or thirty years later, we have Sir Emerson Tenant speaking of the Dutch Burghers of his day in the following terms: "They have risen to eminence at the Bar, and occupied the highest positions on the Bench. They are largely engaged in mercantile pursuits, and as writers and clerks they fill places of trust in every administrative establishment from the department of the Colonial Secretary to the humblest police court. It is not possible to speak too highly of the service of this meritorious body of men, by whom the whole machinery of Government is put into action under the orders of the civil officers. They may fairly be described in the language of Sir Robert Peel as the 'brazen wheels of the executive which keep the golden hands in motion.'"

We shall now leave this part of our subject and proceed to make a more intimate acquaintance with the mode of life, the pursuits and the surroundings of the people. Let us begin with the last of these points. Seeing how rapidly the places around us have been changing within our own recollection, it will strike one that the Colombo, Galle and Jaffna of a hundred years ago must have presented quite a different

appearance from what they do now, or even what they did fifty years ago. Here in Colombo we have seen the disappearance of old landmarks, not only in the Fort, but for miles surrounding the city. Old Dutch buildings have made way for towering "sky scrapers," elegant bungalows in the modern style have risen where till lately there was nothing but cinnamon jungle or groves of cocoanut trees. New roads have been opened, old ones widened, and majestic bridges now span the newly opened tracks constructed to cope with the enormous increase in traffic. These rapid changes have taken place chiefly within the last decade or two. Previously progress was slow and gradual; so that about 50 years ago Colombo, Galle or Jaffna remained nearly the same that they were in the time of our grandfathers and great grandfathers. There are several of us, for instance, who still remember the old Fort of Colombo, surrounded by ramparts, with its serpentine north gate opening out towards the Pettah, the draw-bridge over the moat, the shorter south gate towards Galle Face, the sally port and the causeway crossing the lake to Slave Island. But the Colombo of a hundred years ago was yet different from this. The residential quarters were then confined to the Fort, the Pettah and to short distances in the northern and southern suburbs; and these last, such as Grand Pass, Modera and Colpetty were called country places. The fort itself, within its walls, contained the residences and the places of business of some of the people of quality, both Dutch and English. We have seen some of these houses before they were pulled down; but, from having been pleasant and lively residential quarters, they had already by that time been converted into offices for the great mercantile firms. The position of the streets, however, has undergone no alteration, although the names by which these were then known have been changed. For instance, to the old Dutch residents in Colombo, what we now called Queen Street, was known as "the road leading from the south gate to the Church," the church referred to being the old Dutch Church which stood where the Gordon Gardens are now, and from which the bodies of the Dutch governors were removed to Wolvendal in

1813. It was a roofless, delapidated building at the time, and remained a mass of ruins for many years after. Baillie Street was then called "Koernade Straat" and Chatham Street "Beer Straat." The meaning of these names has been the subject of some dispute, and, as far as I am aware, no satisfactory explanation of the origin of the terms has yet been offered. The way out of the Fort was by Prince Street, turning down from Cargill's corner towards the old building now used as the Fort Police Station. Here, a long, serpentine gate led out to a draw-bridge over the moat, and a little further away, after a turn, to a causeway crossing a swamp called the *Buffels veld* or Buffalo Field. It was on the right of this causeway that, early in the British period, the Racket Court was formed. I must take this opportunity to give the true history of this familiar old pleasure ground, dear to the youth of the Pettah of a few decades back. There has been a good deal of speculation as to the origin of this name; and some of the theories proposed have been absurd enough. It should therefore be stated that the name had nothing to do with Dutch times, nor was it in any way associated with the Dutch Administrator Bartholomeus Jacobus Racket, to whom one ingenious writer allotted it. At the time the British took possession of Colombo the whole area between the fort and the Dutch burial ground was a swamp, which for obvious reasons was called the Buffalo field. The plan of filling up a part of this and converting it into a Racket Court was devised mainly by the military officers of the garrison; but the cost of the work was defrayed by public subscription from "gentlemen subscribers," as they were called, both civil and military. A great many workmen are said to have been employed in its construction and the work appears to have been completed about the end of 1820 or the beginning of 1821. The Racket Court also has alas now disappeared and only furnishes us with a subject of meditation on the vicissitudes of time: first a swamp in which the buffaloes sported; then a pleasure ground for the English ladies and gentlemen of the day to play the old-fashioned game of rackets or tennis; then a primitive cricket ground where the youth of the

Pettah first practised the famous English game, soon to become the premier cricketers of the day; and now, at last, the resort of rice merchants and traders and the scene of all their sordid transactions of barter and sale.

Pursuing our way northwards after passing the causeway we enter what is now called Main Street. It was then called Heere Straat, and was the principal street of the Pettah. Here stood some of the largest and finest dwelling houses. These have all undergone change. Where once there was a diversified line of frontages with *stoeps* and balconies and railed verandahs, giving a charming domestic appearance to the street we now have the monotonously long pavements for pedestrians. Yet even after most of these houses had been appropriated by the Moorish shopkeepers there were still to be seen, till recent times, traces of the residences of the "Heeren en Dames" of a hundred years ago, in the massive walls and doorways of some of the buildings. The parallel streets, Keyser Street and Prince Street were also fashionable residential quarters. The latter was known as "Orphan House Street" from the lofty two storied building, still standing, once the Orphan House and now used by the Volunteers. Some of the old houses here have not yet altogether disappeared, but they have been converted from quiet, cleanly, dwelling houses to shops and goods stores full of grime and dust, with the roads continually blocked by carts and crowds of natives jostling one another all day. It has been so also with the Cross Streets. Those of us who remember the Pettah—the *Oude Stad* or old city, as it used to be called,—when many Dutch Burgher families still lived in it, could realise how restfully and comfortably the old people of a hundred years ago lived here without any of the traffic, or the congestion, or the smells which are now characteristic of the place.

We now leave the Pettah by Kayman's Gate. There stood the old belfry, ancient and hoary as now, but the surroundings were all different. It then stood on an open square of ground, and a few yards further on the right the water of the lake reached up to the edge of the road. At this point as now

there were the divergent roads to the right and the left, the former leading to Hulftsdorp and the latter to Wolvendal. The origin of the name Dam Street had been a knotty point with some antiquarians, but I think that all speculation on this subject may be set aside; because there can be no doubt that up to the early years of the last century this road was to all intents and purposes what may be called a dam. And the name could only have been applied to it by the English.† The water of the lake bounded it on the right from Kayman's Gate as far as San Sebastian corner, and portions of the other side of the road also sloped to the water. For instance, from the entrance to Moor Street up to the foot of San Sebastian hill the road had been a causeway across an inlet of the lake.

These are a few points of difference between the town of Colombo and its environs a hundred years ago and the city of Colombo of the present day. We might traverse other parts of city to Grand Pass and Modera, to Hulftsdorp and Wolvendal, pass along Korteboom and Groenswyk and Blomendal, all places redolent of the spirit of industry and enterprise and witness of the foresight of our Dutch ancestors, but neither time nor space will permit us to go further. Our object here merely is to get some notion of the general conditions by citing a few examples.

Let us now see how these old folks went about in those days. We must remember that it was a time when there were neither rickshaws, nor tram-cars, nor motor-cars, when the railway itself had never yet been heard of. Our modern means of locomotion have been devised to meet the exigencies of the present day, and we could now hardly get on without them, while in their case, except for long journeys to distant places taken occasionally, the circuit of their daily perambula-

† In the discussion which followed the delivery of this lecture it was pointed out by Mr. E. H. van der Wall that there are in some of the cities in Holland even at the present day streets which bear the name "Dam Straat," and that it was probable the name here originated with the Dutch. I believe this is very convincing; the Dutch word *dam* is identical with the English word,

tions was very limited. They had need for but few conveyances, and horses and carriages were a rare luxury. The horse carriage most in vogue was the gig, a light two-wheeled carriage drawn by one horse. It usually had but two seats, and when there was a compartment behind for two additional seats it was called a "family bandy." Besides this, people of quality indulged in the luxury of a "curricie," which was a two wheeled open chaise, drawn by two horses abreast. During the time we are now dealing with this was usually reserved for the high placed British officials. People generally walked when they had any visits to pay or any engagements to keep. Some of the short journeys in the neighbourhood were performed in a *triekel*, which, as its name indicates, was a three wheeled conveyance. It was pushed by a cooly from behind, while the wheel in front acted as a rudder to direct its course, and was manipulated either by the occupant inside or by a second cooly walking in front. This was a favourite with the ladies going to church or paying calls. Two other modes of conveyance must be mentioned, both used in longer journeys. One was the far famed *palanquin* and the other the *ton-jon* both carried on the shoulders of coolies. I fear the generation which saw these vehicles, either in use or laid by as lumber, is now fast passing away. So it may be necessary to describe them. The palanquin was a box resembling, as may be supposed, the body of a palanquin carriage, fixed to two poles which projected in the front and the back. It was borne on the shoulders of four or more coolies. The occupant lay down or reclined inside on cushions. This was the means of travelling long distances, when relays of coolies used to be posted on the way. The *ton-jon* was a smaller vehicle, its body shaped somewhat like a modern rickshaw, but fixed to a pole by which it was borne on the shoulders of two coolies. To these ancient conveyances, which have now quite passed out of use and sight, must be added the bullock cart and the hackery, which many people of good social position, who wished, or were compelled, to avoid the expense of a palanquin did not then consider *infra dig* to travel in,

The subject of these conveyances on land leads us naturally to that of the means of communication beyond seas. We have to remember that the steamship had then not yet appeared. All voyages to distant lands were therefore made in sailing ships, and of these there were several varieties. The long voyage to Europe was usually made in a square-rigged, three-masted vessel of not less than 400 tons burthen, to which alone it was usual to apply the term ship. Smaller craft were distinguished by such names as brigs, schooners, ketches, and cutters; the last, which was probably the same as the well-known *chilloup* a sloop of Dutch times, was used only for the short trips in the neighbourhood. No such roads as we have now connected the different towns in Ceylon with one another. Therefore communication with Jaffna, Trincomalie or Batticaloa, and often with Galle, Hambantota, Negombo or Chilaw, was by these coastwise vessels. The voyage to Europe took about six months. We read that the first Wesleyan Missionaries who came out to Ceylon embarked at Portsmouth on the 30th December, 1813, and arrived at Galle on the 29th June following (1814). News from Europe also came in the same belated way. They had no sub-marine cables or the electric telegraph, and, of course, the telephone was never dreamt of. They never had the excitement of following the course of great events such as we had, for instance, during the late War, or even during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. It is stated that the same vessel which brought the news of the battle of Waterloo and the banishment of Bonaparte, also brought the particulars of all the exciting events which preceded it for several months.

It is difficult in the short space of a lecture like this, and in the time to which I must restrict myself, to deal with all the various contrasts which are presented in a comparison of the lives of those days with ours. Many matters which bear on this subject must needs be omitted. But there are one or two points which it is essential for us to touch upon if we are to obtain a tolerably fair estimate of the circumstances of this period. The personal appearance of the people, for instance, is full of interest to us in their inquiry. The old

Dutch folk were a very conservative race. We know this from the habits of the old people of our own acquaintance. Just as stubbornly as they adhered to their old customs, their theories and their superstitions, they were very slow in following the fashions. They did not readily imitate those who came from Europe. There, about this time, the French Revolution had created a great change in the costumes of both men and women. The extravagant headdress and the hoop petticoat of the ladies, characteristic of the 18th century, had given way to a simplicity of dress which tended towards the classical style. The heavy brocades were replaced by light muslins made into clinging frocks with low bodices and high waists. So also the men gave up the full-bottomed wig and the three-cornered hat, the powdered hair and the pig tail. Instead they wore their own hair which they smeared with macassar oil to such an extent, that the anti-macassar, so familiar to us in our youth was brought into requisition in order to protect the drawing-room chair backs. Breeches and stockings were replaced by close fitting pantaloons and Hessian boots; the long surtout by cut away coats; but these were still of various colours with gold or gilt buttons, the colour most in vogue being blue. This reformation in dress which dominated the fashions prevailing during the first two decades of the 19th century found the old Dutch folk here still clinging largely to the old order of things. The wig, the pig-tail, and the three-cornered hat were seen along with the cropped hair and the chimney-pot hat; breeches and pantaloons were seen side by side. In short, there was a strange medley of the gaily decorative style of the 18th century with the plain stiffness of the revolutionary period. Some Dutch ladies still wore hoop dresses of heavy material and delighted in the use of flowers, bells and other ornaments in their hair. I have heard it related of a lady in Galle, a Mrs. Le Garde, who wore a headdress to church which contained so many little bells that those inside the church were made aware of her approach before she entered the edifice by the tinkling of the little silver bells in her hair. But the poke bonnet gradually became fashionable with those who wore

any head covering, doing away with all the former extravagances. Many of the Ceylon-born ladies, however, wore no head covering at all, but went about with bare head, their hair parted in the middle and fastened over the ears with little combs.

We have been told that in Colombo there was but little intercourse between the Dutch residents and the British. The aloofness was probably chiefly on the side of the Dutch and may be explained by the feeling of bitterness which naturally would be created in the hearts of those who had been dispossessed of their position and influence here towards their rivals who had come into possession. Cordiner has told us that "they meet seldom unless on public occasions, when they are mutually friendly and agreeable to one another," but that "this led to no intimate acquaintance or lasting attachments." One event of this period may however be mentioned to show that the relations between those in the highest society were not altogether of a hostile character. When Governor van de Graaf left Ceylon in 1793, and was succeeded by his father-in-law van Angelbeek, his young daughter remained behind with her grandfather, and after his death, with her uncle Christiaan van Angelbeek. On the 27th November, 1802, she was married at Colombo to the Honourable George Melville Leslie, who had come out as one of the earliest British civil servants. He was a son of the Earl of Leven. The event appears to have been celebrated with some festivity; for we read the following announcement in the chronicle of the day: "On Saturday, 27th November, 1802, at the Country House of Christiaan van Angelbeek, Esq., Colpetty, near Colombo, was married the Honourable George Melville Leslie, Paymaster-General on the Island of Ceylon, to Miss Jacomina Gertruida van de Graaf, only daughter of His Excellency the Honourable Willem Jacob van de Graaf, late First Councillor and Director-General of the Dutch Settlements in India, by his Lady, Christina Elisabeth van Angelbeek." Then we read again that an "elegant and sumptuous entertainment was given by Mr. and Mrs. van Angelbeek on the 27th November, 1802, to

"H. E. the Governor and principal inhabitants of Colombo "in honour of the marriage of their niece to the Honourable Mr. Leslie." There was a daughter of this marriage, Mary Christina Melville Leslie, who went to England with her parents and died there unmarried, at an advanced age, on the 6th November, 1892. Many other marriages between Dutch and English couples took place at this period—too numerous indeed to be all mentioned here. A few instances would suffice. John William Carrington, Treasurer of the Colony, married a daughter of Frederick Baron Mylius; Charles Edward Layard married Barbara Bringentina Mooyaart, grand daughter of Commandeur Anthony Mooyaart. They were the parents of the late Sir Charles Peter Layard, K.C.M.G., Government Agent of the Western Province. A daughter of Commandeur Fretz of Galle married twice, first Lieut.-Colonel John Macdonald, and secondly Dr. Reynolds of the 51st Regiment; five daughters of Johan Frederick Conradi married English officers and civilians, and two daughters of Andreas Everhardus de Ly of Galle married, one, an officer, and the other a civilian. These are but a few of such marriages. Yet in spite of these alliances the Dutch lived their lives somewhat apart from the English. Chiefly in the Pettah of Colombo, in Galle, Jaffna, and the smaller towns

"they kept the noiseless tenor of their way"

free from most of the tumult and distractions that block our path at the present day. The houses in which they lived, both in external appearance and in internal arrangement, have been described to us in several places. Their articles of diet were wholesome and dainty, and the skill of the house wife in the culinary art has been almost proverbial with us for generations. Their manners were unconventional yet decent and courtly. Domestic discipline was enforced in a firm but gentle manner. The authority of the master of the house was paramount. His wife treated him with a quaint and well-bred homage, which in these days would be considered formal and obsequious, but was then well understood, and in no way affected their devotion and their loyalty to each other. The children were taught to respect their

parents, not in early youth only, but even after they had grown up to be men and women. The quaint old-fashioned custom now, I fear, very much ridiculed, of the sons not smoking in the presence of their parents or elder members of the family was universally observed. Age everywhere was honoured and respected. Most of the domestics in the Dutch houses at this time were slaves, and these were treated with almost parental care by the master and the mistress, a care which these creatures responded to with great attachment and devotion. The religion of the house was of the cold, puritanical form characteristic of the Dutch Reformed Church. The sabbath day was strictly observed. Every Sunday, morning and evening, the family went to church. Here in Colombo they all attended Wolvendal, and, on these occasions, the place was crowded yet presented a solemn appearance. The Governor's pew was now closed, for, alas, the Dutch Governors had ceased to be. But the pews along the walls were still filled by the old Company's servants in the seats they were wont to occupy in former days. The seats in the body of the church were reserved for the ladies who sat apart from the men. The congregation stood up for prayer and sat when the Psalms were sung, just in the same way as is still done in Holland. The elder Palm ministered to the congregation during nearly the whole of this period. He had been sent out by the London Missionary Society in 1805, but after that Society had withdrawn its agencies, and the old Dutch ministers had departed or died, he remained here in permanent charge and proved truly loyal to his trust, striving to keep his congregation faithful to their traditions and zealous in the endeavour to maintain the use of the Dutch language. It appears that in 1813 he had fallen foul on this subject with Archdeacon Twisleton who had been appointed Principal of Schools; for we find the Archdeacon complaining to the Governor on the 3rd January that year that Mr. Palm had excluded from communion in his church all those Dutch descendants who did not use the Dutch language; and, a little later, he was apprehensive that Mr. Palm had secured the establishment of a Government School

for the purpose of "perpetuating the Dutch language in Ceylon—a language which he, the Archdeacon, thought ought not to be encouraged here, but be allowed to die away." But, alas, the Dutch language was doomed, and whatever the causes, the English language in a short while took its place among the Dutch descendants as the language of polite society. At this time the men spoke Dutch among themselves and the ladies only when conversing with strangers, but Portuguese was the language of the household. The children spoke it with the slaves and used no other till they went to school and learnt to read and write. I had a curious confirmation of this very recently from a Dutch pamphlet given to me by a friend. It happened to be a review of a paper of my own on the subject of the disappearance of the Dutch language in Ceylon. The writer had consulted Professor C. C. Uhlenbeck of Leyden on this question. Professor Uhlenbeck, who, it may be mentioned, is a well-known philologist in Holland, is a descendant of a family which had formerly been in Ceylon. He said that he remembered his grandmother, who belonged to a family in Ceylon, after she had spent a whole life time in Holland, even so late as the middle of the 19th century, preferring to express herself in Portuguese rather than in any other language.

We have now observed many of the circumstances prevailing here at the time, so it would be interesting to know the names of some of the people who were living here then and some incidents or occurrences relating to them. Very early in this period we find many of the principal officers of the late Government disappearing from the scene, some by death, as Governor van Angelbeek, others by departure to Holland and Batavia. But there were some who remained and buried their bones here many years after the British had been established in the island. Mention might be made of Pieter Sluysken, who had been Commandeur of Galle before Fretz, and who, after holding the post of Director of Surat, retired from service about the time the British came here and returned to live in Ceylon. His house was the building afterwards occupied by Cargills in Colombo, on the site of

which now stands their present handsome edifice. He let this house after a while and retired to a residence in the "Groeneweg," which was probably the same as that now called Green Path. His death occurred on the 15th September, 1813, and the funeral, it is stated, was largely attended. We read that the "whole of His Majesty's Civil and Military servants" accompanied his remains to the grave "as a token of respect and in remembrance of his unbounded hospitality to the British Officers at the period of the capture of the City in 1796." His tomb, one of the largest in the Pettah Burial Ground, may still be seen there. Among others who made their permanent residence here was Count August Carl van Ranzow, who lived till the forties. His residence was in Prince Street, not in the large two-storied building which was the Orphan House, as I find it mentioned by one writer, but in a smaller house on the opposite side of the street. Next door lived the widow of the Reverend Carl Sezilles, much advanced in years then. Her son practised as a Notary and had several daughters, one of whom married Johan Arnold Kriekenbeek and another Abraham Cornelis van Ouylenburg. Then when we come to Main Street, Huybert Jacob Doebratsz and his wife were living there in 1815 in a house opposite to that in which Hendrik de Haan had his shop. The widow of Abraham Leopold Gratiaen lived in a house in Keyzer Street, where in 1811 she made her will. She had two sons Johan Michael and Josua, and several relatives, who received legacies, viz., her half sister Catharina van Geyzel, widow of Frans Ledulx, her niece Susan Backer, widow of Louis Martin Butger and her nephew Daniel Gerhardt who was also her executor. Daniel Gerhardt was the son of Dominicus Gerhardt who celebrated the 50th anniversary of his marriage with much festivity on the 23rd January, 1802, in a house in Main Street in the close vicinity of the Kayman's Gate Belfry. Next door lived old Mr. Wickerman, into whose house, somewhere in the twenties, came Hendrik Huybertsz from Galle. It was not far from this spot that Huybertsz in after years had a place of business—probably in the identical house. The names of many other



occupants of houses may be mentioned: the Reckermans, the Andringas, the Bodyns, the Douwes, the Goldesteins, the Schroters, the Staats, all living in Colombo at the time. But these must suffice for the present, and we must now take a peep at Galle.

After the cession of the island to the British, Commandeur Diderich Thomas Fretz, to whom special reference was made in the Articles of Capitulation, continued to reside in Galle for several years, only removing to Colombo shortly before his death in 1814. Like others of lower estate than himself, he settled down to the life of a simple burgher, eking out whatever income he had by a little trade. He was a thin, spare man, of medium height, with courtly manners, who continued to wear his wig his long surtout, breeches and silk stockings up to the day of his death, and he usually rode out in a small curricule drawn by a white pony. The Dutch residents at Galle did not abate any of the deference and respect they were wont to pay him when he was in supreme authority in the place, and he, freed now from the restraints of his exalted official position, moved about among the people with a kindliness and courtesy which was much appreciated. There was one particular resident whom we are told he treated with marked friendliness. This was Jan Marten Wittensleger, who, after the withdrawal of the Dutch Ministers from Galle did duty as Proponent to the Church and Congregation there. Wittensleger had a somewhat varied career. His father had come out from Amsterdam and died shortly after the birth of his son, who when quite a lad, being of an adventurous turn of mind, worked out his passage to Holland with the thought of settling there; but after a year or two returned to Ceylon and took employment in the Dutch Company's service at Galle. It was but a subordinate post, and he continued in it till the British occupation threw him out of billet. Of irreproachable character and conduct, fairly well educated, and devotedly attached to his Church, he became an elder about this time, and, as I have said, when the Church was left without a pastor, they chose him proponent. For him Commandeur Fretz had taken a special

liking and received from him in return a respectful and faithful allegiance. One little incident is, I think, worth mentioning. The Commandeur was once driving out in his curricule and met Wittensleger walking in the road, when he at once invited him to a seat beside him. But Wittensleger in his modesty, and jealous for the Commandeur's prestige and dignity, could not see the propriety of his riding beside his former exalted patron. So, "Neen, neen, Achtbaren Heer," he exclaimed, "als dese Engelsch ons zien tezamen ryden, wat voor een mensch zouden ze onze Commandeur houden." "No, no Honoured Sir, if these English should see us driving together what opinion would they have of our Commandeur." There were other residents in Galle at the time whose relations with Commandeur Fretz were not of so agreeable a nature. One of these was Lieutenant Johan Godlieb Buitenmuller of the Wurtemberg Regiment, who from all accounts that have come down to us was a scamp of the first water, and looked upon by the rest of the townfolk as a Philistine in Society. We are not concerned here with his acts of gallantry or with the escapades by which he made himself a terror among the peace-loving residents, but the following little incident may be mentioned. In October 1801, one of the Commandeur's daughters had been asked in marriage by Lieutenant Anselm of the same Regiment as Buitenmuller. The latter, a widower at the time had also been a suitor for her hand, but had been rejected. In consequence of this he organized a plan of harassing and annoying the young lady, and, it is said vowed he would mar her prospects. It was necessary that the Governor's license should be obtained for the marriage with Anselm, and Commandeur Fretz, in applying for the same, made the additional request for a dispensation to have the proclamation of the three banns on the same day, urging as his reason that the "malice of Lieut. Buitenmuller may go so far as to prevent the marriage taking place." We have no means of knowing how he could have succeeded in this; but it is a fact that the marriage with Lieut. Anselm did not take place, but that shortly after the young lady married Dr. Dirk Schaap of the Dutch Company's service and

eventually left with him for Batavia, where she died so late as 1873.

Another prominent and interesting figure in Galle at this time was Andreas Everhardus de Ly, son of a former Commandeur and himself a high Civil Servant in the Company's Service. The change of rule had left him without employment and in reduced circumstances. He had pleaded as his reason for remaining in Ceylon that his creditors would not let him depart. On the death of wife, Dorothea van der Spar in 1811, leaving him no male issue, he, in a fit of deep melancholy, made a will in which the following passage occurs: "Whereas 'I am the last surviving heir of the male branch of the 'Family or House of De Ly, I hereby require, wish and desire 'that my said Testamentary Executor will name and appoint 'a Person to carry my Family Arms before my corpse to the 'place where it is to be interred and then and there to break 'my said Family Arms to pieces as the same being then 'extinct.' Yet a few years later we find him consoling himself by making a second marriage with a young woman very much his junior in years. This lady survived him up to the sixties and I had the good fortune to see her and even to converse with her in her advanced age. However when he died in 1821 the terms of his will in regard to his family arms were strictly carried out. A gentleman of good birth was selected to march before the bier holding the hatchment with the emblazoned shield of the De Lys. After the burial the wooden panel was placed over the grave and shattered to pieces with an axe. Many other old families then living at Galle have since become extinct in the male line. To mention but a few, only the names of the following now remain: the Rabinels, the Treks, the De Moors, the Luyks, the Waltzells, etc.

Matara was at this time a station of greater importance than now, being a garrison town with a fairly large European population. I shall not stay to describe the place more fully, but would relate an incident—somewhat amusing but characteristic of the time—which occurred there soon after the British had come into occupation. The Maha Mudaliyar,

it is mentioned, on a certain occasion, gave a sumptuous entertainment to the principal British and Dutch residents of the town, at which several of the old Dutch officials sat side by side with the British Officers and Civilians. Great harmony is said to have prevailed in the company till it came to the proposal of the health of His Majesty King George III, when the following unfortunate contretemps occurred. All present stood up with glasses raised, among them Dr. Jan Hendrik Ludovici, the Garrison Surgeon, who, in repeating the words "Good health" pronounced them in his Dutch way, which sounded something like "*Goo-de-hell.*" An English Officer seated next to him upon this challenged him for a duel, declaring that he had wilfully and deliberately insulted the King. The matter appears to have been settled without recourse to an engagement, but it became the subject of a subsequent Government enquiry, of which a record may I believe be yet found.

In Jaffna, also, the most deserted now of all the Dutch towns, yet the best preserved of all, there were living then in peace and comfort a great many well-known families, who are hardly even a memory to the present generation. The two Commandeurs, Bartholomeus Jacobus Raket and his brother Mattheus Petrus Raket, who succeeded him, lived there in early British times in contiguous houses in the Main Street of the town, outside the Fort. These houses are still standing much in the same state in which they had been, and were referred to by people till recently as the houses of the "oude Commandeur" and the "jonge Commandeur." But, alas, they have now been converted into tobacco stores. There is still standing the house in which lived old Mrs. Van der Spar, who had been a Dormieux, the widow of Johannes Van der Spar of the Dutch Company; also the house of Christian Gerard Saalfelt in which his widow continued to reside for many years and where in 1816 she signed the Petition to the Prince Regent for the emancipation of slaves. I have also had pointed out to me the house of Johannes Alexander Maartensz, one of those who retained his pigtail and his breeches and his long hose to the last, whose widow Susanna

Elizabeth Mooyaart, a diminutive, silver-haired lady, grand daughter of Commadeur Anthony Mooyaart, died there in the fifties and was removed for burial in the vault of the Mooyaarts within the old Church. All these names have disappeared: so also have the Verwyks, the Dormieuxs, the Meybrinks, the Saalfelts, the Ribergs and a host of others. No one who has heard of these old folk and of the social life of Jaffna of their day could I am sure, when now traversing the fine, broad streets of the town, refrain from sighing over the memories which the past recalls.

These are but a few morsels, from the annals of a hundred years ago which I have here placed before you. They are indeed but "chronicles of small beer." Many more names might be mentioned of these departed folk and more of their sayings and doings recorded; but if what I have set down will serve to give you a picture, however imperfect, of the homely lives of our ancestors, I do not think I have altogether wasted your time this evening; because I feel sure that many a lesson might be drawn from these primitive times and these uneventful lives if we only know how to apply them to ourselves in this work-a-day life of ours.

## DUTCH PREDIKANTS IN CEYLON.

TRANSLATED BY C. E. DE VOS.

(Continued from p. 86.)

**Johannes Jacobus Potke**, acted in Ceylon and was Emeritus yet in 1758 (?)

**Nicolaas Riemersma**, born at Bolsward, went to Franeker on the 13th June, 1693, to study languages. By order of the Directors of the East India Company he was appointed proponent by the classis of Amsterdam and was chosen for Ceylon as successor to the Revd. Johannes Ruël, Rector of the Seminary at Colombo, with a view to devoting himself exclusively to the native ministry. At the time he left the Netherlands (1701) he was referred to in letters to the Indies as "young, strong" "well-trained" and "that he was a good witness of his life." He travelled direct to Ceylon, not to Batavia, via the Cape of Good Hope and reached Colombo in 1702 where he was posted till 1711. In 1705 he took part in an examination of scholars who were to be promoted proponents—an examination that turned out to be unsuccessful. In 1712 he returned to the fatherland and was in Leyden as late as 1726.

**Johannes Ruel or Ruell** left the Cape of Good Hope for Ceylon in 1690 and arrived in 1691 or 1692 and was appointed predikant at Colombo. He was also Rector of the Sinhalese Seminary since 1698 and was indeed its first Rector. A year and a half earlier he was relieved of the duties of predikant owing to duties connected with the Seminary. He acquired much proficiency in the Singalese language. He preached his first sermon in it the 14th October, 1696. He also wrote a Sinhalese Grammar (Amsterdam, 1708, 4°) and translated several works. But "his labours in the study of that language and the translation of several edifying writings have, to our (i.e. the Consistory at Batavia) great regret, been rendered fruitless owing to the abolition of the Seminary: as however, according to our Ceylon brethren, that vineyard had already produced good fruit and given hope of much gain for Christianity in that island." So men wrote to the classis at Amsterdam on the 22nd November, 1700.

Although his duties called him always amongst the native Christians, yet, in 1700, he also preached in Dutch owing to the scarcity there was then of predikants. He also preached the gospel in Portuguese. He died in May 1701.

**Henricus Saakens, Sakens or Zakens**, studied at the University of Franeker. He became proponent in 1720 and was nominated predikant in Ceylon on the 6th September, 1723. He was in Colombo in 1724. He applied for his discharge in November, 1738, but appears not to have received it at once as he was still in service in 1742.

**Francois van de Sande**, appointed as predikant by the Chamber at Amsterdam and went to the Indies in the ship "Bambeck." He reached Batavia on the 22nd November, 1700, and became very ill a week after his arrival. On recovering he went on a mission to Bantam, Samarang and Japara in 1701 to administer the Sacraments. He was sent to Ceylon on the 17th July, 1702, and was stationed at Jaffnapatam in 1704 where he died on the 6th April at the age of 39.

**Wijbrandus Scaevola or Scevola** was the son of Wilhelmus Scaevola. He was appointed predikant at Scharnegoutum in Friesland, on the 8th July, 1704. On the 22nd March, 1717, he was appointed at Amsterdam to the ministry in the Indies and arrived at Batavia in the following year. He was then sent to Ceylon and stationed at Colombo. Thereafter he was, in 1722, transferred to Jaffna. There he had to serve the congregations at Mannar, Trincomalee and Batticaloa. In 1738 he was unfit to carry on his duties owing to old age.

**Jacobus Schee**, appointed by the classis of Walcheren, reached Batavia as predikant on the 16th July, 1668, and was later sent to Ceylon and stationed at Galle. He died in 1678.

**Antonius Scherius or Scheer** was born at Nijmegen and studied at Leyden. He was appointed predikant at Hekelingen near Briel in 1658. In 1662 he left for the Indies and on the 24th July of the same year arrived in Ceylon, was stationed at Colombo and was President of the Consistory in 1668. In the following year, owing to misbehaviour, he was sent to Batavia. In 1670 he arrived at Cochin (Malabar) and returned home in 1671. On

returning to the Netherland he succeeded the Revd. Franciscus Emanuel de Moraes as predikant at Langerak. In the name of the classis of Gouda under whose jurisdiction this congregation was, the Revd. Corn. Cuperus, in a letter addressed to the directors commissioned with ecclesiastical matters in the Indies, enquired of the reasons for his return to the fatherland. This manuscript is still extant in the archives of the classis.

**Johannes Philippus Schmidt or Smit**\* was born in 1699 and studied at Leyden. He was appointed predikant at Laren and Blaricum, near Naarden and in 1738 went to the Indies and arrived in Ceylon in 1742 where he was predikant at Colombo and since 1746 at Galle. He was Emeritus in 1769. His request to be exempted from the return journey and to be permitted to remain by his congregation at Galle was granted. He was there even in 1785.

*(To be continued)*

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\* We may add the following fuller particulars regarding this clergyman, whose connection with Ceylon was, unlike some of the others, of a somewhat permanent nature: He was born in 1699 at Hanau, a town in Hesse Nassau, on the right bank of the Main. Having graduated at the Leyden University and served as predikant at Laren and Blaricum, he sailed for the East in 1738, arriving that same year at the Cape of Good Hope, where he served for a period of 4 years. On the 23rd May, 1739, he married there Johanna Constantia Pfeil, daughter of Pieter Pfeil, Burgerraad of Cape Town, and his wife Anna Maria Six van Chandelier. Leaving for India with his wife, he arrived in Ceylon in 1742 and was at once appointed to Jaffna, whence he proceeded to the charge of the Galle Church in 1746. He had only one child, a daughter, Maria Adriana Constantia Smit, born in Jaffna, who married 1st, at Galle, on the 13th July, 1759, Hendrik Anthonisz, Vryburger of Jaffna, and 2ndly 31st July, 1775, George Michiel Kroner of Pappenheim, Captain D. E. I. C. Johannes Philippus Smit, whose wife had died in Jaffna, married a second time at Galle, Isabella de Krouse, who had been married twice previously, 1st to Hendrik van Doornik and 2ndly to Pieter Wilhelm Behm; but he had no further children. He died at Galle in 1788 and was buried in the Dutch Church in the vault under the pulpit.

## A LETTER FROM BATAVIA, 1807.

TRANSLATED BY R. G. ANTHONISZ.

*(Concluded from page 94)*

**19th March, 1807, 7 p.m.**—I was so weak yesterday and all to-day through hunger and much purging that I could not hold my pen; but I now feel stronger after the doctor discovered that I had no fever last evening and to-day; and, as the colour of my motions has changed from black to its natural appearance, I have been allowed a diet of some vegetable and meat.

To-day I learnt with much pleasure that the wife of Mr. Aarniks and Schutz's two children are not dead, but getting better now; but I heard with sorrow that the youngest child of Brukner, not a year old, was buried yesterday. What a hard blow to a man to lose a wife and two children within such a short period!

Mrs. Lesliet is to leave this for Europe in a Danish ship the middle of next month with a niece of the Governor General's wife (a German lady who had arrived here with her husband, a Major in the Prussian Service.)

Captain Thierbach has become Military Auditor; Captains Hoyer and Schroeder have been retired on their application with full pay, and have free lodging with a certain Major Flandringa, and Adrigam is stationed here. The rest of the Ceylon Officers have gone to Samarang. Lecroix looks capital and, being now the senior lieutenant, has a chance of being promoted captain on the next vacancy. His wife and children are also doing well.

**20th March, 1807.**—The fever has left me and my acquaintances, new and old, congratulate me on having been lucky enough to "surmount the crest of the billow," as the

† She was Miss Jacobina van de Graaf, daughter of Governor Willem Jacob van de Graaf and grand daughter of Governor van Angelbeek. She married at Colombo in 1802 the British Civil Servant, the Hon. George Melville Leslie.

saying is here. They treat me as a regenerated cow. I am still very weak, especially in my knees. My eyes also are sunken, but that will improve gradually. It is sufficient that I have come through it all alive and have a prospect of peace of mind after a prolonged rest.

When I see pass my door any one clothed with high authority, who had arrived here only 7 or 8 years ago, and who could by no means be considered a Phoenix, the thought enters my mind, or rather, the question occurs to me: "Why did I not come here 6 or 7 years before this? What a man would I be now!" But in a moment my heart is prepared with an answer to this prompting of my ambition and silences it at once with the simple unanswerable objection: "How then would you have had your Carel\* and your Toontje? Would you exchange them for riches and great estate? No, indeed no, not for any treasure or worldly greatness would I part with these jewels. I would rather wait patiently for what the fates would bring me and keep a good heart.

There is a report that Captains v. D. K. and Venekam have been cashiered and disgraced by the Supreme Government. I shall, however, not vouch for the truth of this till I am better informed. Ranzow† of Galle has been summoned before the Court Marshal here at the instance of the Galle officers, and, so far as I see, he will most assuredly break up. His daughter has been conducting herself in a most ridiculous fashion on board. She openly declares she will marry no one but her beloved B., and the fellow has a face like a rotten omelet.

Van der Wall, the youngest, is as foolish as he has ever been. He is however Onderkoopman and Librarian of the Political Secretariat. He would have risen higher if he had remained in the Office of Justice, because he is senior to the present Secretary. But they are glad he exchanged. I am

\* These, a son and a daughter, grew up, married, and in course of time, died here leaving descendants.

† Count August Anthon van Ranzow, who died at Java the following year (1808). He was a brother of the Count who remained in Ceylon and lived till the forties in a house in Prince Street, Pettah.

reminded here of a certain remark made by the late Governor Falck on an application for retirement submitted to him. Our mutual friend is, as the saying goes, in perdition by his stupid anonymous productions of—what shall I call them—poems? no, I would rather say verses.

**21st March, 1807.**—To-morrow morning I go with my fellow lodger for recreation to spend the day with a friend of his who lives in a beautiful country place out of town, and the day after to-morrow I resume my official duties. I feel much lighter than I did for a long time in Ceylon, and the blood-purifying vegetables appear to have had a beneficial effect on me.

Brukner's third child, alas, was also buried yesterday. Good God how could he bear this!

**27th March, 1807.**—The relaxation of last Sunday in the country place I have referred to had so far done me good; but they say I returned to the office too soon; that I should have had at least 14 days' rest; because the day before yesterday I again had fever, more severe than before. As Schaap is no longer in my neighbourhood, but lives about one and a half hours' journey\* from me, I had to send direct for Doctor van Loen, who is a real doctor of medicine and is considered the most skilful physician here. He gave me 30 pills of calomel, rhubarb and ipecacuanna to be taken, five a time, every 2 hours. Last evening and this morning I have had no fever but I am not yet up to the mark. The doctor says there is nothing the matter with me and that I shall be all right in a couple of days; that my constitution lends itself easily to the medicine; and that I shall quickly get inured to this vicious climate.

Van Brukner's fourth and last child, alas, also died last night. He had very high fever.

**29th March, 1807.**—Lecroix has been promoted Captain. Thierbach, instead of auditor, has been appointed something else with the rank of Major, and Hoyer, I understand, receives

\* 4 1/2 English miles.

only 50 rix-dollars per month instead of his full pay. Old Van Geyzelt of Galle is also already in the Kingdom of the dead.

It seems Dame Fortune has taken to smile on me. First, I consider my promotion from junior assistant to qualified boekhouder a good sign. Secondly, I have recovered my lost watch by a payment of 15 rix-dollars. I was sitting chatting with my fellow lodger yesterday, when one Jansz, brother-in-law of de Boer,\* came up to me with my watch in his hand, followed by a Malay woman, saying that when seated on the stoep of Mr. Katgeim's house (where he resides) the Malay woman came to him and asked him to wind a watch which she handed to him. As soon as he saw the watch he recognised it as mine and called out to Mr. Katgeim to come and see it. He then asked the woman to accompany him to my house. The woman stated that she obtained the watch from 9 Chinese men who had run away from the ships in the wharf, paying 25 rix-dollars for it. Well aware that 9 Chinese had deserted the ship, and being glad to get my watch and chain back, I readily gave the woman 15 rix-dollars and ordered her to run away. I hope my good fortune will continue. I pray that there will be speedy peace which will enable me to return to Ceylon. I believe that without much difficulty I shall be able to go on to the rank of *onderkoopman* and that in this capacity I shall return to your arms once more and spend the rest of my life in peace and happiness, devoting my attention to the education of our precious children.

**1st April, 1807.**—The ship by which I propose to dispatch this letter sails to-morrow or the day after, which obliges me now to close this.

† Frans van Geyzel.

\* Lourens de Boer of Amsterdam, in the Company's Service in Ceylon, who was married to Sophia Engeltina Jansz of Batavia.

**DUTCH COMPANY'S SERVANTS IN 1796.****THIRD LIST.**

The following is a list of those Company's servants in Jaffna and the out-lying stations of the Northern Province to whom temporary allowances were granted by the British Government in terms of the capitulation. A list very nearly corresponding to this, compiled by the late Mr. J. P. Lewis from a source independent of that from which our materials have been taken, appeared in the D. B. U. Journal, Vol. I, p. 92.

Theodorus Williamsz  
Johannes Bartholomeus Tyken  
Jan van Ebbenhorst  
Diederick Johan Kellens  
Barend Justinus Toussaint  
Jurgen Kats  
Isaac van Hek  
Louis Verwyk  
Warnaar Christiaan Driemond  
Mattheus Steenkelder  
Johannes Arnoldus Heynsburgh  
Anthony de La Rambelje  
Arnoldus Johannus Mom  
Willem de Niese  
Johan Christoffel Hesler  
Jacobus Bartholomeus van der Werf  
Willem Cornelis Pronk  
Anthony Godfried Keegel  
Daniel Bartholomeusz  
Jan Hendrik van Hoorn  
Pieter Heynsburgh  
Jan Lambertus Garnier  
Jan Cornelis Kwesius  
Jan Anthony Dormieux  
Stephanus Henricus Cadenski  
Johan Theodosius Stol  
Johannes van der Gucht  
Andries de Hoedt  
Barend de Wolff  
Willem Jacob Modder  
Christoffel Schneider  
Johannes Daniel van Schoonbeek  
Gysbert de Rooy

Willem Scheffer  
Jan Wesel Grieve  
G'orge Samuel Hester  
Johannes Willem Otto  
Ary Marcus  
Carl Lodewyk de Risp  
Ursipus Bartholomeusz  
Ary Dirksz  
Willem van Rossum  
Mattheus Kruis  
Warnaar Parreyn  
Gerrit Claasz  
Hendrik Smith  
Harmanus van Brenkelen  
Godfried Koch  
Christiaan Specht  
Gysbert Vynke  
Pieter Leander  
Hendrik Harmanus Schrader  
Jan Hendrik Corteling  
Cornelis Steenstraad  
Carl Frederik Sonnenberg  
Michiel Bartholomeus Specht  
Jan Andries Wigman  
Jan Frederik Fosty  
Hendrik Mattheus de Bondt  
Jacob de Vos  
Augustinus Silvester Leanders  
Adrianus van Aardenberg  
Jan Cornelis Wolff  
Balthazar van de Putte  
Christoffel Gerard Keegel  
Jan Anthony Zwekkerts

Johan Carel de Hoedt

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING**

OF THE DUTCH BURGHER UNION HELD AT THE  
UNION HALL, ON SATURDAY, THE 28TH FEBRUARY, 1925.

There were present Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, I.S.O., President of the Union in the Chair and the following Members :

Mr. C. E. Albrecht, Mr. D. V. Altendorff, Mr. E. Anthonisz, Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Anthonisz, Mr. H. O. Beven, Mr. G. F. Bartholomeusz, Mr. L. E. Blazé, Mr. C. P. Brohier, Mr. B. C. H. Driberg, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Collette, Mr. P. E. Christoffelsz, Mr. A. C. van Cuylenburg, Mr. and Mrs. G. V. Ebell, Mr. E. van Dort, Miss G. van Dort, Mr. J. A. Fryer, Dr. H. P. Joseph, Mr. D. E. Keegel, Mr. A. E. Keuneman, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Kellar, Mr. E. de Kretser, I.S.O., Mr. and Mrs. D. Koch, Mr. and Mrs. W. Ludovici, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Loos, Mr. L. M. Maartensz, Mr. T. B. Modder, Mr. W. de Niese, Mr. J. G. Paulusz, Mr. A. E. Rode, Mr. R. L. Spittel, Mr. L. P. Stork, Mr. C. Reimers, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Toussaint, Mr. F. Toussaint, Mr. E. H. Vanderwall, Mr. M. O. Vanderstraaten, Mr. A. van Geyzel, and Mrs. L. M. Weinman.

2. The Honorary Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

3. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 23rd February, 1924, was read and confirmed.

5. The President then addressed the meeting as follows :

When I addressed you from this chair a year ago I really did not think I would occupy this position to-day. I had several reasons for wishing to retire from the office of President, which I had occupied continuously for nine years, and I hoped you would be able to come to some agreement about the choice of a suitable successor. It was, however, your unanimous desire that I should continue in office for another year, which desire, I understood, was based on the belief that, spite of all drawbacks, the interests of the Union would be best served for the time being by my remaining President. Now, I have always placed the interests of the



Union above most other considerations; and so, at much personal inconvenience I acceded to your desire. I am therefore here again to-day; and as the order of the proceedings requires me to open this meeting by addressing you a few words, I must ask your indulgence to speak freely on one or two points which seem to me to have an important bearing on the prospects and the existence of the Dutch Burger Union.

Year after year in my opening remarks I endeavoured to remind you of the paramount objects for which the Union was founded, and to give you words of encouragement with regard to the work done and the prospects and possibilities before us. I do not propose to address you on those lines to-day, not only because those arguments must seem somewhat hackneyed to you now, but because I feel that we have arrived at a very critical point in the life of our association. Doubts are expressed and questions raised as to what good the Dutch Burgher Union has been doing and what benefit the members are to expect from it. As a veteran member—almost the last of that band of older men who laboured eighteen years ago to bring the Union into existence—I address myself to this subject with confidence, seeing, as I do, with much apprehension, the danger which threatens us. From that standpoint I am sure I could speak to you without any bias or self-interest, and I have no wish to hurt the susceptibilities of any person or party. During the eighteen years the Dutch Burgher Union has been in existence we have not escaped criticism and even hostility. This was perhaps inevitable in the inception of any scheme or organization calculated to effect a change in an existing state of things. Yet we kept before us the future of our Community and the possible, I might say, the certain, services which such an institution as ours could render in promoting its welfare.

Well, we started eighteen years ago with a membership of between 400 and 500. We have now to face the fact that these members have not progressively increased. A glance at the Report in your hands will shew you that this is so.

Have we absorbed all the eligible members of our community? By no means; for that number is I believe about three times as large as that on our roll. I shall not stop to enquire why so many still keep out of the Union. No difficulties have ever been placed in the way of applicants for admission. It is true the genealogical test must be passed, but the really eligible candidate has every facility for obtaining particulars of his descent. If for other reasons he has set his face against the Union we could only say that he thereby deliberately withholds his help from a movement manifestly set on foot for the benefit of the Community to which he belongs. But what of those on our roll? Have we kept our minds on the chief objects for which we stand? You are of course aware what these objects are; they appear under eight heads in the Constitution. Of these heads I would briefly refer to four which you will see are at the base of all: 1st the promotion of the moral, intellectual and social well being of the Dutch descendants in Ceylon; 2nd the promotion of principles of self-help, self-reliance and thrift in the youth of the Community; 3rd the revival of useful and beneficial customs of our ancestors and the study of the Dutch language; and 4th the promotion of a feeling of fellowship among the members. These are objects the furtherance of which require united effort. How far has this united effort been exerted? I fear that to a great extent these objects have not been attained. To what is our failure due? Some explanation of this may be found in the different attitudes from which different groups of members look upon the Union. There are a number, a small one, I am sorry to say, who still keep to the spirit of our main objects and have not abated their interest in the work that is being done. There are others, whose names appear on the roll of the Union, but who show no interest whatever in its activities. Possibly this lack of interest may be satisfactorily explained, but there is no doubt that it must have a disintegrating effect. Another, fairly large number, attend the meetings and participate in most of the functions of the Union, but with a feeling of growing dissatisfaction. Another number, mostly of the younger

members do not seem to understand the main objects for which this Union has been founded. They only avail themselves of the opportunities for entertainment and recreation and apparently look askance at the more serious side of our activities. I would treat these somewhat tenderly, as I have no doubt they will in time realize the true objects of the Union. I must needs also refer here to our outstation members, most of whom do not or cannot participate in the movements initiated in Colombo. In consequence of this there is a manifest indifference on their part, shown in various ways.

I believe I have now indicated the chief causes which are at the bottom of that lack of united effort to which I referred. I am sure that if all these members with divergent tendencies could be made to realize the importance of the Union and the urgent need for united effort to carry out its objects, they would no longer hesitate to cast aside the trivial objections and the grievances, real or imaginary, which hinder them at present. In the face of the danger which threatens us of this Union breaking up, and the Dutch Burgher Community being reduced to the condition to which it was drifting eighteen years ago, I think the call is at this moment made on all loyal members to sink whatever differences they have had and to strive to maintain this Union in all its integrity and in all the strength it could exercise in promoting our true welfare and prosperity. United we stand; divided we fall.

6. Mr. J. A. Fryer proposed and Mr. W. A. Ludovici seconded that the Report and the financial statements for 1924 be adopted. Carried unanimously.

7. At this stage the President, Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, vacated the chair and Mr. W. de Niese moved and Mr. E. H. Vanderwall seconded that Mr. L. M. Maartensz do take the chair.

On taking the chair Mr. Maartensz addressed the meeting and stated that in the critical stage of its existence which the Union had reached it would be disastrous to lose the advice, and the sound judgment of its President, Mr. R. G. Anthonisz.

His guiding hand was essential and they must have him. Commenting on the lack of interest referred to in the Presidential address Mr. Maartensz added, while in recent times people were awakening to a sense of corporate life, the Dutch Burgher community of Ceylon furnished the only exceptions in the island and perhaps in the world.

Mr. W. de Niese enthusiastically seconded the proposal and said that so long as Mr. Anthonisz's services were available they should be secured.

The motion was unanimously carried with acclamation. Mr. R. G. Anthonisz in resuming the chair, stated that he was obliged to yield to the pressing and unanimous request of the meeting.

He thanked them for this proof of renewed confidence and assured them that his interest in the Union and his efforts to secure its welfare would continue unabated.

8. The President proposed the re-election of Mr. D. V. Altendorff as President

Mr. A. E. Keuneman seconded the proposal and paid a well deserved tribute to Mr. Altendorff's energy and devotion to his duties.

He added that during the past year the various activities of the Union—Literary and Social—had made noticeable progress.

He claimed the right to strike an optimistic note and to view the future with well-founded hope.

Mr. W. de Niese seconded in a witty speech punctuated with much applause.

He would we sorry if so successful a pair as the President and the Secretary were to part. Mr. Altendorff had excellent qualities and they wanted a man with backbone to be Secretary.

The proposal was carried unanimously.

9. Mr. D. V. Altendorff stated that Mr. A. R. Bartholomeusz did not desire to serve any longer as Honorary Treasurer. He proposed that Mr. J. R. Toussaint be appoint-

ed Honorary Treasurer for 1925. Mr. W. de Niese seconded and the proposal was carried unanimously.

10. Mr. A. E. Keuneman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. A. R. Bartholomeusz for the excellent services rendered by him to the Union for several years as its Honorary Treasurer. This was seconded by Mr. D. V. Altendorff and was carried unanimously.

11. Mr. D. V. Altendorff proposed and Mr. W. de Niese seconded that Mr. F. E. Loos be re-elected Auditor for 1925. Carried unanimously.

12. Mr. H. O. Beven proposed and Mr. J. A. Fryer seconded that the following gentlemen form the Committee for the ensuing year:

#### COLOMBO.

Beling, Mr. W. W.  
Blaze, Mr. L. E.  
Carron, Mr. T. K.  
Collette, Mr. T. W.  
Driberg, K. C., Mr. Allan  
Foenander, Mr. Cyril  
de Hoedt, Mr. G.  
Joseph, Dr. H. P.  
Joseph, Mr. E. H.  
Keuneman, Mr. A. E.  
de Kretser, I.S.O., Mr. E.  
Koch, Mr. Roslyn  
Loos, Mr. F. E.  
Ludovici, Mr. W. A.  
Maartensz, Mr. L. M.  
Metzeling, Mr. A. W.

Ohlmus, Dr. E. H.  
Paulusz, Mr. J. G.  
Reimers, Mr. C. L.  
de Rooy, Mr. W. E. V.  
Schneider, K. C.,  
Hon. Mr. G. S.  
Spittel, Dr. R. L.  
Stork, Mr. C. P.  
Toussaint, Mr. F.  
Vanderstraaten, Mr. E. A.  
Vanderwall, Mr. E. H.  
VanGeyzel, Mr. A.  
de Niese, Mr. W.  
Gratiaen, Mr. G. H.  
Wille, Hon. Mr. G. A.

#### OUTSTATION.

Brohier, Mr. C. P.  
Buultjens, Mr. E. J.  
Herft, Mr. W.  
Joseph, Dr. S. P.  
Loos, Hon. Mr. H. A.  
Ludovici, Dr. E.  
Martin, Hon. Mr. N. J.  
de Kretser, Mr. O. C.

Poulier, Mr. L. G.  
VanRooyen, Mr. T. C.  
de Vos, Mr. C. E.  
Keuneman, Mr. G. P.  
de Vos, Dr. C. J.  
VanTwest, Mr. J. T.  
Altendorff, Mr. G. H.

13. The Hon. Secretary read a letter from Mr. E. J. Buultjens of Matara pointing out the lack of educational facilities for boys and girls of poor Burgher parents, and suggesting that either by Committee of the Union or representation to Government provision for the education of such children be made.

The meeting decided that the letter be referred to the General Committee of the Union for such action as it thinks fit.

14. A collection was then taken in aid of the Social Service Benevolent Fund of the Union and realised Rs. 50.

15. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

#### Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

##### SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Your Committee beg to submit the following report for the year 1924:—

**Membership.**—The number of members on the roll on 31st December, 1924, was 503 as compared with 488 on 31st December, 1923.

**General Committee.**—Ten meetings of the General Committee were held during the year with an average attendance of 17. Mr. Geo. H. Gratiaen was elected member of this Committee in the place of Mr. G. V. Ebell, who left Colombo.

**Work of Standing Committees.**—1. *Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes.*—The Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes arranged for a series of monthly lectures commencing from May and ending in November. The subject of each lecture was well chosen and the large gathering present bore ample testimony to the popularity of this form of entertainment.

The first five lectures were delivered by members of the Union, while by way of a change the last two were delivered by persons unconnected with the Union.

The full text of the lecture delivered by Mr. L. E. Blazé on "The Changing East" was reproduced in the pages of the Journal of the Union. The following is the list of lectures:—

30 May	1924 "Bintenne"	Dr. R. L. Spittel
27 June	"The Changing East"	Mr. L. E. Blazé, B.A.
25 July	"Francis Thompson"	Mr. E. H. VanderWall
29 August	"A Hundred Years Ago"	Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, I.S.O.
26 Sept.	"Womanhood in Shakespeare"	Mr. R. A. Kriekenbeek
24 Oct.	"Readings from Kipling"	Rev. W. S. Senior, M.A.
27 Nov.	"Reminiscences of Scottish University Life"	Rev. C. V. A. Mac Echern, M.A.

2. *Committee for Purposes of Social Service.*—The work of this Committee has been steadily carried out during this year. Owing to the large balance carried forward from 1923, no special effort to raise funds was made during the year under review; but the Committee would have been in difficulties had not a special donation of Rs. 300/- been received. We record our appreciation of the donor's kind thought and valuable help.

The many members of the Union who always helped when called upon, and whose generosity was not taxed in 1924, will we feel sure, be only too glad to help in added measure now, in view of the very low condition of the finances as revealed by the Balance Sheet.

The Committee starts 1925 with only Rs. 102 03, which means that there is sufficient money in hand to meet its obligation at the end of January, with a few rupees standing over. It will be noticed that the expenditure in fees etc., and allowances during 1924 has exceeded the expenditure of the previous year, showing that the Committee's sphere of usefulness is extending.

3. *Committee for Purposes of Genealogical Research.*—Four meetings were held during the year and ten applications for membership dealt with.

4. *Committee for Purposes of Entertainment.*—At a meeting of this Committee held on the 16th April, 1924, it was decided to have a Social Evening on the first Friday of every month, a Sub-Committee being responsible for the Musical Programme, and refreshments being provided at each Social.

These entertainments have proved very popular, and have been very well-attended. There were four Social Evenings, at which informal dances were arranged for in the intervals of the Musical Programme. This Committee was also responsible for a very successful dance in August. In December the Committee with Mrs. H. P. Joseph as convener organised the St. Nicholaas Fête, for the children. Subscriptions came readily in, and the Committee was able to make the Fête an enjoyable one. Thanks are due to all those who helped to make the evening such a success.

*Roll of Honour.*—The panel was unveiled by the President on 31st May, 1924, in the presence of a large number of members. A photograph of the panel appeared in the first issue of the revived Journal.

*D. B. U. Journal.*—The D. B. U. Journal was revived and issued to members and others on a subscription of Rs. 5/- a year. The President Mr. R. G. Anthonisz is acting as Editor of the Journal, and Mr. J. R. Toussaint as Treasurer.

*Finances.*—The accounts of the Hon. Treasurer duly audited, are herewith submitted.

D. V. ALTENDORFF,  
Hon. Secretary.

2nd February, 1925.

# THE DUTCH BURGHER UNION OF CEYLON.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1924.

RECEIPTS.	R. c.
To Balance from last Account ...	617 00
" Entrance Fees received ... Rs. 12 00	
" Arrears of Subscription ... " 321 00	
" Subscription for Current year ... " 1,329 50	
" Subscription in Advance ... " 82 50	
" War Memorial Fund ... " 74 98	
" Refund of Advance to Secretary for Postage on a/c War Memorial Panel ... " 18 00	
" Fixed deposit withdrawn on a/c of War Memorial Panel ... " 377 05	
" Miscellaneous Receipts ... " 5 25	
	<u>2,230 28</u>

Rs. 2,847 28

Audited and found correct,

FRANK E. LOOS,  
Auditor.

Colombo, 9th January, 1925.

EXPENDITURE.	R. c.
By Salary of Clerk ...	Rs. 691 58
" Clerical Assistance to Hon. Treas. ...	" 240 00
" Wages of Servant ...	" 120 00
" Books and Stationery ...	" 28 25
" Printing and Advertising ...	" 110 00
" Commission to Collector ...	" 83 70
" Lighting ...	" 80 00
" Rent of Hall ...	" 250 00
" Postage ...	" 53 49
" War Memorial Panel ...	" 833 33
" Advance to Entertainment Comtee. on a/c St. Nicholas Fete Toys ...	" 75 00
" Petty Expenses ...	" 11 00
	<u>2,571 35</u>
" Balance on 31st December, 1924.	
In Imperial Bank of India Rs. 224 01	
Add Money Order unrealized 6 50	
	<u>230 51</u>
Deduct cheque unpaid Rs. 12 50	
	<u>218 01</u>
Misappropriated by Collector	56 50
" In hand ...	1 42
	<u>275 93</u>

Rs. 2,847 28

A. R. BARTHOLOMEUSZ,  
Hon. Treasurer, D. B. U.

## THE DUTCH BURGHER UNION OF CEYLON.

Balance Sheet on 31st December, 1924.

	Rs. c.
To Rent of Hall from November 1923 to December, 1924 ... Rs. 700 00	700 00
" Arrears of over 2 years written off as irrecoverable ...	5,320 00
" Balance ...	2,794 27

Rs. 8,814 27

Audited and found correct,

FRANK E. LOOS,  
Auditor.

Colombo, 9th January, 1925.

	Rs. c.
By Fixed Deposit, Imperial Bank of India	1,078 64
" Value of Furniture ... Rs. 417 95	
" Ladies' Room Furniture ...	" 60 00
" Piano ...	" 1,350 00
" Subscriptions outstanding on 31st December, 1924.	1,827 95
Arrears of over 2 years written off as irrecoverable ...	5,320 00
Arrears of under 2 years ...	311 75
" Cash in Imperial Bank of India ... Rs. 224 01	
Add Money Order of 30th of December, 1924 unrealized ...	" 6 50
	<u>230 51</u>
Deduct cheque of 29th Decr., 1924, unpaid ...	12 50
	<u>218 01</u>
Misappropriated by Collector	56 50
" In hand ...	1 42
	<u>275 93</u>
	<u>Rs. 8,814 27</u>

A. R. BARTHOLOMEUSZ,  
Hon. Treasurer.

## DUTCH BURGHER UNION BENEVOLENT FUND

## Balance Sheet for 1924.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
	Rs. c.		Rs. c.
Balance from 1923 ...	447 89	Fees, etc. for children at school ...	577 00
Collection at last Annual Meeting ...	37 50	Allowances to widows ...	315 00
Monthly Subscriptions ...	120 00	Special help rendered ...	26 50
Annual donations ...	120 00	Incidentals ...	4 86
Special donations ...	300 00	Balance to 1925 ...	102 03
	<u>Rs... 1,025 39</u>		<u>Rs... 1,025 39</u>

Audited and found correct.

FRANK E. LOOS,

Auditor.

Colombo, 29th January, 1925.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

**A Slaafbrief 156 years old.**—A *Slaafbrief*, it may be mentioned, was the title deed by which the property in a slave was held and conveyed. It generally consisted, primarily, of a deposition before a duly constituted authority, supported by evidence in writing or otherwise, showing the manner in which the individual slave was acquired by the deponent. This document also proceeded to give a description of the slave—sex, name, age and other particulars. On a subsequent conveyance by sale or gift, the original owner made an endorsement setting out the name of the purchaser, the date and the price paid. The *slaafbrief* then passed into the possession of the vendee. All subsequent conveyances were endorsed in the same way, and, it often happened, that the instrument of title passed through numerous hands and became covered with a long series of endorsements giving a history of the slave from the date of his first entering into bondage to his acquisition by the last owner. A much esteemed member of the Union has favoured us with a translation of a *slaafbrief* bearing date 29th November, 1769, and closing with an entry on the 26th May, 1805. We give the following synopsis of the document from which we believe our readers would be able to obtain a clear idea of its nature and purport:

*On the 29th November 1769*, Gerrit Mulder appeared before the Political Secretariat at Cochin and established his right to possess a female slave called Cally, to be renamed Marcella, aged 13 years and of the *chegotty* caste. On the same day he by an endorsement transferred his right and title to the girl to Captain Jan Carel van Ossenbergh.

*On the 19th January, 1770*, at Colombo, Captain van Ossenbergh transferred her by endorsement to Maria Rebecca Ebert, wife of Captain Wekke, for the sum of 90 rixdollars.

*On the 25th April, 1774*, also at Colombo, Maria Rebecca Ebert, widow of Captain Wekke, subsequently married to Petrus Henricus van Cuylenburg, transferred the maid Marcella, now renamed Roseina, and her little daughter Minora, born since date of purchase, to her step son Petrus Henricus van Cuylenburg junior.

*On the 16th May 1804*, Petrus Henricus van Cuylenburg made a deposition that he had transferred the said slave Roseina and a lad Orantes, born in 1780, to his son-in-law Christiaan Frederick Reimers.

*On the 26th May, 1805*, Christiaan Frederick Reimers transferred the young lad Orantes to Roemana Bockholst (wife of Johannes Justinus Christoffelsz) for the sum of 160 rix dollars.

**Lorenz's Christmas Debates.**—Mr. Guy Grenier has rendered a valuable service by the republication of these humorous sketches, which, sixty years ago, were a source of much delight and amusement to the people of this island. The memory of C. A. L. can never fade, and anything that serves to remind us of him and his brilliant contemporaries will be always most welcome.



## HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

**Rice as a Food.**—The following applies chiefly, no doubt, to temperate climates, but the principles laid down are not without some interest to dwellers in the tropics, where rice forms the staple food of a large proportion of the inhabitants:

Rice is the poorest of all cereals in proteid, fat and mineral matter; but it has 76 per cent. of starch. It is best cooked by steaming. Rice is only moderately easy of digestion in the stomach, probably because it is not the function of the stomach to digest carbohydrates. On the other hand, it is absorbed with great completeness in the intestine; its solid constituents enter the blood almost as completely as meat. It is not adapted to be an exclusive diet, because poor in proteid and fat, and should be eaten with eggs, cheese, or milk. In the tropics, as we know, it is eaten with various preparations of meat and vegetable.

**Coffee.**—A little good coffee after a meal is an aid to digestion; large quantities and diluted with much milk impedes it. The morning cup of strong black coffee used to be a familiar beverage with the Dutch Burghers in Ceylon, and the custom still prevails in old fashioned households in Holland. The Dutch, as a race, it is said, prefer coffee to tea; and they certainly excel in the art of boiling it. The well-roasted and crushed or powdered coffee, free from chicory or any other ingredient, is put into a pot previously warmed by rinsing with hot water. Sufficient boiling water is then poured over it to give the infusion a fairly good strength, and allowed to stand at least 15 minutes. When poured out the liquor should be a dark brown colour and full of aroma.

**To Soften the Hands.**—Take 1 ounce of glycerine, 1 ounce of rose water and a few drops of simple tincture of benzine. Rub thoroughly all over the hand after washing and before drying.





THE JOURNAL OF THE  
NOTES OF EVENTS.

**Mr. Maartensz's appointment to the Supreme Court Bench.** We offer our sincerest congratulations to the Hon'ble Mr. L. M. Maartensz on his acting appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court. It is specially gratifying to us that a recognition of Mr. Maartensz's splendid services to the Crown and the public brings well-deserved honour to one who has also served his own community with unflagging zeal and steadfast loyalty.

We shall continue to watch Mr. Maartensz's career with pride and unceasing interest.

**The Entertainment Committee** wound up its activities for the year with a "Swan Song," which attracted a record attendance. Among the several enjoyable features of the entertainment were the pianoforte solos of Mr. Lionel Wendt, son of our late President of the Union. A programme of dances followed the musical items.

**The Tennis Club.** Renewed activity is seen on the Courts and the number of playing members who turn out is very encouraging.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

*Notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths.*—Members of the Union are entitled, free of charge, to the insertion of notices of domestic occurrences. These notices must be restricted to a bare statement of the name or names, place, and date of occurrence, and must be sent to the Editors of the Journal.

*Standing Committee for Ethical and Library Purposes.*—The attention of members is invited to the need for co-operation in carrying out the objects laid down in sub-section (f) of Rule 2 of the Constitution. Any suggestions on this subject are to be addressed to the Honorary Secretary of the Committee for Literary Purposes, Mr. J. R. Toussaint, Muresk, Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya.

The Journal will be issued at the end of every quarter, post free, to each member of the Union who pays a subscription of Rs. 5/- per annum towards its cost of publication. Literary and other contributions are invited and should be sent to Mr. E. H. Vanderwall, Linton, Brownrigg Road, Colombo, Secretary of the Board of Management, while all remittances on account of the Journal should be made to Mr. J. R. Toussaint as above.

*Changes of Address.*—All change of address (especially within the last three years) should be notified without delay to the Honorary Secretary of the Union, Dutch Burgher Union Hall, Serpentine Road, Colombo, or to the Honorary Treasurer of the Union. This will ensure the safe receipt by members of all notices, invitations, report, etc.

Those members who have not received their copies, are kindly requested to notify the fact to the Honorary Secretary of the Union.

*Remittances.*—Remittances, whether of subscriptions due to the Union or contributions for special objects, must be made to the Honorary Treasurer of the Union, Mr. J. R. Toussaint, Muresk, Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya and not to the Honorary Secretary.

Remittances on the account of the Social Service Fund must be made to Mrs. G. S. Schneider, Braemar, Ward Place, Colombo, the Honorary Secretary of the Standing Committee for purposes of Social Service.

*Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon Buildings Co., Ltd.*—All communications should be addressed to G. H. Gartiaen, Esq., Secretary of the Company, D. B. U. Hall, Serpentine Road, Colombo.

**OUR NEXT VOLUME.**

With the July number commences the next volume of this Journal. We hope to introduce a few new features which we trust will make it more attractive to our readers. Among these will be short biographies of eminent members of our community, while topics of current interest will also find a place.

We invite contributions from our friends on subjects calculated to be of interest to our readers.

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**NOTICE.**

Colombo, 1st April, 1925.

Dear Sir,—While thanking you for your support in the past I would remind you that your subscription to the Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union is now due for the coming year.

Please be so good as to remit the amount (Five Rupees) at your earliest convenience to Mr. J. R. Toussaint, Muresk, Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya.

Yours faithfully,

E. H. VANDER WALL,

*Secretary of the Board of Management,  
D. B. U. Journal.*

Subscriptions to the Dutch Burgher Union for the year 1925 are now due. Members are kindly requested to remit the sum of Rupees Six to the Treasurer, or pay the amount at the Union Hall and obtain a receipt.

J. R. TOUSSAINT,

*Honorary Treasurer.*

Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya, and  
Stamp Office, Fort.