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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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ROBERT HENRY LEEMBRUGGEN.

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ROBERT HENRY LEEMBRUGGEN.

Any review which deals with the service which our community has rendered for the progress and improvement of this island must yield a foremost place to the work of Burgher Schoolmasters.

It was some years ago at a Royal College prize distribution that Mr. C. Hartley, late Principal, bemoaned the passing away of the Burgher schoolmaster. That is perhaps inevitable under the changing conditions of our lives, but the work of Burgher schoolmasters which has shaped and directed the careers of thousands of our most respected citizens lies enshrined in their respect, gratitude and affection.

There were giants in the land in those days—J. E. Anthonisz, J. R. Anthonisz and William Auwardt of Galle, Arthur vanCuylenburg, Edwin Ludovici, J. W. Spaar and J. F. Poulier of Colombo, Edward LaBrooy and R. P. Jansz of Kandy, W. F. vanCuylenburg, of Kalutara. It is indeed an illustrious roll to which the Burghers gave of their best. And in this roll Robert Leembruggen finds a foremost place.

The life of Robert Leembruggen illustrates in a striking manner the characteristics of the race from which he springs. Thrown on his own resources at a very early age and equipped with a slender school education, he relied on his own natural gifts of intellect and a ceaseless effort to bend circumstance to his will. He daily improved his mind and his capacity for useful service in life.

When in his teens he entered as an assistant master at the Wesleyan Central School, Jaffna, did he dream great dreams?

Did the young lad, conscious of inborn ability and the power to achieve, wonder if some day he might not rise to be Inspector of Schools ?

" Turn again Wittington
Lord Mayor of London "

are lines that fire the imagination of children.

When as a very young man Robert Leembruggen received his first promotion and was appointed headmaster of the Government Boys' School at Matara did he not hear a similiar refrain from the bells of the Central School, Jaffna ?

Possibly he did, for he returned to be a prophet not without honour in his own country and among his own people. The Assistant Master at the Central School returned to Jaffna as Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools for the Northern Division.

Robert Leembruggen, who was the eldest in a family of ten children, was born on the 12th November, 1844. His father, Gerard Hendrik Leembruggen, was a clerk in the office of the Deputy Queen's Advocate, Jaffna. Robert Leembruggen's appointment in the dawn of his manhood to the responsible post of headmaster of the Government Boys' School at Matara was a signal tribute to the reputation he had already made in the Educational world. He succeeded to a charge which had reached the high water mark of efficiency under the rule of James Barton and his able assistant John Henry Ernst, (Snr.) John Henry Ernst (Snr.) deserves more than a passing word of mention. He was the friend and the kinsman of Charles Lorenz, and was a man of outstanding ability and character. He died before he had reached his fortieth year, his ardent spirit fretting at the narrow bounds in which cruel circumstance had ordered his life.

Robert Leembruggen did not come to Matara as a stranger, for a great tradition had already grown around the name of Leembruggen. Was it not his famous ancestor Hendrik Leembruggen, Dissave of Matara, who a century before had been captured by the Kandyans at Hakmana and carried as a hostage to Kandy ?

It was under the happiest auspices therefore that Robert Leembruggen and his first wife (nee Henrietta Koch) assumed duties as headmaster and headmistress of the Government Boys' and Girls' Schools at Matara.

Under their stern but beneficient rule the schools prospered exceedingly. Their pupils now belong to the older generation, but they have handed down the tradition of respect and esteem for their old teachers to their children and to their children's children.

Robert Leembruggen's pupil, John Henry Ernst, junior, won the scholarship awarded on the results of the Ceylon Local Examination, in open competition with all the schools in Ceylon. It was only for his finishing touches in Latin that he attended the classes of that erudite scholar, the Rev. Abraham Dias. Shortly after Ernst entered the Colombo Academy he won the signal distinction of a first division in the Calcutta Entrance Examination, the only candidate to pass in that division. The Academy declared a full holiday in honour of the event.

Robert Leembruggen repeated his success with Ernest Nell, who was the next to win the scholarship awarded on the Ceylon Local Examination. Fresh from this triumph, Nell entered the Colombo Academy and won the Lorenz scholarship.

Other distinguished pupils whom Robert Leembruggen trained were Dr. Andreas Nell, Dr. W. E. Leembruggen, Messrs. C. H. Ernst and E. J. Buultjens, Proctors of Matara, A. E. Buultjens, English University Scholar, and J. Munasinghe, Manager of Messrs. H. Don Carolis & Sons.

It was only the other day that Dr. Andreas Nell, in recounting greatful memories of his old schoolmaster, said to me: " Leembruggen taught us how to learn."

Two well known assistants who served under Robert Leembruggen at Matara were A. W. D. Jayasuriya, who himself later became Inspector of Schools, and Reginald Ludekens.

In 1879 Robert Leembruggen was appointed Headmaster of the Female Seminary in Dam Street, Colombo, with his wife as his first assistant. During this period he resided at Appleton House, Ferry Street, near the Law Courts. Under the Leembruggens the school achieved striking success and attracted the daughters of the leading families in Colombo. Miss Hetty Drieberg (now Mrs. C. A. T. LaBrooy of Kandy) won a second class in honours at the Cambridge Junior Local Examination, a remarkable success for a girl in those days.

At the end of 1884 Government abolished all their English schools with the exception of the Royal College, and Robert Leembruggen was for a time diverted from his educational career.

His short period in the Clerical Service was a series of triumphs for the genius of the man had been discovered.

From a clerical post in the Dimbula Railway extension, he was promoted head clerk of the Attorney-General's Department and later head clerk of the Colonial Secretary's Office. It was when he held the last of these appointments that he celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his first marriage at Rock House, Mutwal. The gathering on that occasion, both official and unofficial, bore ample testimony to the high regard in which Mr. and Mrs. Robert Leembruggen were held. The health of the couple was proposed by Sir Edward Noel Walker, Lieutenant Governor.

But Robert Leembruggen was destined for still higher things. On the death of Mr. W. H. Alwis in 1892 he was appointed Inspector of Schools, Northern Division, a post which he held with great acceptance up to his retirement on the 1st January, 1904.

To this day the name of Robert Leembruggen is held in the highest regard in the North. He understood the Jaffna Tamil, his needs, his aspirations, his merits and his defects as few others did, and there is no doubt that he was singularly qualified to direct education in the North.

His service in the Inspectorate is regarded with gratitude and pride by the people among whom he laboured. Like many successful men in life Robert Leembruggen was an early riser. He held the annual examinations of his schools from 7 to 11 a.m. It must have cost Jaffna a great effort to adapt itself to the innovation, for Jaffna is well-known to be a late place. "Why is Jaffna such a late place?" once inquired Sir Edward Denham, late Director of Education, and got no satisfactory reply. Robert Leembruggen's methods taught Jaffna the value of the golden hours of the morning. Besides, they were intensely practical. One half of the day was left over for other work. Robert Leembruggen appeared at his examinations of schools with the formal dignity the occasion deserved. Attired in his dark, navy blue serge suit, with his long hair brushed smoothly to the back of his head, and his large intelligent eyes keenly observant, he looked every inch of his magnificent height, Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools.

His methods of inspection were many years in advance of his times. The questions he set at examination tested accurate knowledge and saved time, and were somewhat akin to the intelligence tests of modern days.

On his retirement Robert Leembruggen was appointed Justice of the Peace for the Northern Province. In 1902 he married for the second time, the lady of his choice being Miss Mabel VanZyl.

Twenty-five years seems to be a significant period in the life of Robert Leembruggen. He twice celebrated a twenty-fifth anniversary of marriage and he lived for twenty-five years after his retirement.

The dry stimulating air of Jaffna and its restfulness are a vivifying tonic. To mention just two names, Sir William Twynam and Robert Leembruggen lived with undimmed vigour of mind and body long after they had passed the Psalmist's span of life.

I well remember an incident which took place in Robert Leembruggen's seventy-fifth year. I was anxious to shoot partridge in one of the more distant Jaffna islands and my friend S. agreed to accompany me with his dogs. Robert Leembruggen who carried the third gun undertook all the arrangements, including the supply of food and water.

We set sail at dawn and soon were out in the open sea, buffeted by wind and wave. A storm developed, whereupon S's courage failed him. He loudly bemoaned his folly in coming and wondered if ever he would see his home again.

"What are you afraid of? Look at me!" cried Robert Leembruggen who had climbed a mast and was taking down the sails.

"You! why, you are like an eel and nothing matters to you" was S's subdued reply.

We reached terra firma however and soon were in the thick of our shoot. The partridges whirred past abundantly and till noonday we trudged the loose white sand under a pitiless sun. Robert Leembruggen walked every inch of the way with his gun.

When at last we reached the welcome shade of the little half walled hut where food and a change of clothes awaited us, I threw myself on my back, completely fagged out. So did S. Robert Leembruggen was however busily superintending the arrangements for the coming meal. After our meal I expected we would lie about and smoke till it was time to sail back. But we were counting without our host, who immediately produced fishing tackle and announced he was going out fishing. S and I declared we were too tired to join. "Tired!" said Robert Leembruggen. "That's the way with you young fellows. Look at me!"

We returned by nightfall to our homes on Beach Road without any misadventure.

I think it might be truthfully said that Robert Leembruggen was not idle for a single moment of his life. He led a life of ceaseless activity. His indoor recreations were reading, carpentry and fretwork, and his chief outdoor recreation was fishing.

Robert Leembruggen's reading covered a very wide range and his information was extensive. There were very few things which he did not know or which he did not qualify himself to know. For many years he was Secretary of the Jaffna Library, and when he resigned that post he organised a circulating library for the residents of Beach Road.

He was a facile writer and as a platform speaker he had a fine flow of restrained oratory at his command.

He could turn out fancy articles such as work baskets, writing cases, blotting pads, &c., with such delicacy of finish and ornamentation that few realised they were not choice imported ware bought at the shops. It is only now that we realise the value of a hand and eye training in education. Robert Leembruggen knew and practised it before many of our fathers went to school, and even in his old age his eye was not dimmed nor had his right hand forgotten her cunning.

Robert Leembruggen was one of the kindest hearted of men. He received into his home and brought up and educated a large number of his poorer relations, to whom he and his good wife stood in the position of foster parents.

It would be impossible to end this sketch without a reference to Robert Leembruggen's connection with the Dutch Burgher Union. He was an original and a loyal member whose allegiance and interest never wavered, and whose faith in the movement was undimmed. His is an inspiring life which shines brightly as a beacon light.

Peace to the memory of a great and good man.

THE DUTCH POLITICAL COUNCIL:

A Sketch of its Constitution and Functions and an Outline of the System of Government under the Dutch East India Company.

By R. G. Anthonisz.

The following outline of the constitution and functions of the Political Council and of the system of government in Ceylon under the Dutch East India Company may serve to elucidate to some extent the subject matter contained in the body of Resolutions from 1656 to 1796. The series of volumes in the Government Archives which embrace these resolutions have been numbered D. 1 etc. to distinguish them from the General records, in which the numeral is placed before the letter, as, 1 D. etc. They comprise (1) the Resolutions, fairly copied, and duly signed, by the Governor and Councillors, (2) the draft minutes with corrections, (3) some of the important documents laid before the Council, described as "Appendices to the Council Proceedings." Speaking generally of the records in the Archives, this three-fold series of the Council proceedings is perhaps the most complete and well preserved of all the records, except for a few gaps in the earlier years and the decayed and fretted condition of the paper in the volumes for a period of a decade from about the year 1700, owing to the use of a very corrosive ink.

The Political Council, or Council of Policy, was the central institution of the Government under the Dutch East India Company. This Council in Ceylon was subordinate to the Council of India, which had its head quarters at Batavia, and was practically the sovereign power in the East. So far as the administration of the Island was concerned, the Political Council of Ceylon, in Colombo, with the Governor as President, was the source from which all orders of the Government proceeded. At first, in the early years of the Dutch rule, it consisted of but six members including the Governor; but, in the course of time, a larger number of the principal officers took a share in the counsels of the State; and about the year 1750, the Council was composed of the following nine members: The Governor and Director of the Island (President); The Hoofd Adminis-

trateur (Chief Revenue Officer); The Major commanding the Forces; The Dissave (Governor of the Province); The First Warehouse Keeper; The Fiscaal (Public Prosecutor); The Negotie Boekhouder (Chief of the Trade Department); The Zoldy Boekhouder (Paymaster); and the Political Secretary. In addition to these the Commandeurs of Jaffnapatam and Galle were ex-officio members, and had seats at the board whenever they were present in Colombo, when they took precedence of all the other members after the Governor. This continued to be the full complement of members during the greater part of the Dutch rule, although in times of stress the Council was strengthened by the addition of other officers with special knowledge and experience whose advice it was considered necessary to obtain. For instance, during the war with the Kandyan King (1760 to 1766), the number of members was temporarily raised to twelve.

The Council acted in a legislative, administrative, and, to a certain extent, judicial capacity. It passed laws for the internal administration of the Company's territories, levied taxes, appointed the servants of the Company to civil and military stations, granted and leased out lands, and had general control of all the establishments of the Government. It was the medium through which all the transactions of the Government were carried out.

The Resolutions of the Political Council therefore form an important part of the records of the Government Archives. They contain matters relating to every department of the administration and to every subject of interest to the Company in the Island. A glance at the Index,† which includes some of the most important heads, would show the diversity of subjects dealt with. These Resolutions may be said to preserve, in their sequence through a century and a half of the Dutch rule, a record of the growth of the colony and a detailed history of events.

The proceedings of each meeting of the Council were carefully recorded, and, after being revised by the Governor, were signed by himself as President and by each of the members. Besides the Resolutions themselves, full copies of important reports and communications sent and received, which formed the subject of discussion or deliberation, were inserted in the text, and in this way

† This Sketch of the Political Council etc. was intended as an introduction to the alphabetical Index which accompanied it.

they have been preserved in their proper place instead of being lost or mislaid among loose papers.

The Index deals, as already stated, only with some of the most important subjects. Those matters of a merely casual nature, and orders of council confined to purely local and passing events, such as the appointments and movements of subordinate officers, the conditions of rents and leases etc., have been omitted; so also the "Secret Resolutions" have been reserved to be dealt with in a separate supplementary index. To have included all these would have greatly increased the bulk of the Index. The reference is to volume and date; so that any given subject may be sought under the proceedings of Council of that particular date.

Passing on from this brief sketch of the constitution of the Political Council to the system of Government which obtained in Ceylon under the Dutch East India Company, it must be mentioned that the Dutch rule in Ceylon was confined to the maritime districts of the Island, and that it was only during the last thirty years of their rule that they had dominion over the entire sea board. At the head of the Government was the Governor, who, as we have seen, was assisted by a Council composed of the principal officers stationed in Colombo. Though, in fact, only President of the Council, the Governor exercised considerable personal authority in the administration. This influence and prestige were so great that he was able at times to act in a very arbitrary manner; and instances of the use or abuse of this power were by no means uncommon. The Governor received his appointment from the Governor-General and Council of India, and was, as a rule, himself an ordinary or extraordinary member of that Council. His full title was, "Governor and Director of the Island of Ceylon and its Dependencies", these dependencies including what was known as the *Costa d'enseada* (*Port.* Coast of the bay), the utmost southern part of the coast of India with Tuticorin as a centre. Next to the Governor the highest officers of the Government were the Commandeurs of Jaffnapatam and Galle, who, under the Governor and Council in Colombo, exercised both civil and military authority over the northern and southern parts of the Island respectively. The titles of the principal officers of the Government stationed in Colombo whose rank and position entitled them to seats in the Political Council have already been mentioned. Of these the Hoofd Administrateur was the chief revenue officer of the Gov-

ernment. Next to him in precedence was the officer commanding the military forces, who in ordinary times was of the rank of Major; but during the war with the Kandyans, when officers of higher rank (colonels and lieutenant colonels) served in the field, they had seats in the Council, and were by special resolution given precedence over the Hoofd Administrateur. After the Officer Commanding the Forces came the Dessave, whose title, adopted from the Sinhalese, meant Governor of a Province. This Officer was agent of the Government for rural districts and was at the head of the inland, or native, affairs (inlandsche zaaken), the functions of his office corresponding very nearly to those of the Government Agent of the Western Province at the present day. The First Warehouse Keeper (Eerste Pakhuismeester) was, as his title indicates, a sort of Commissariat Officer. When it is borne in mind that the Dutch Government in Ceylon was that of a trading company, and that the articles of merchandise, exports and imports, had to await the arrival and departure of vessels which took more than six months in the voyage from Europe, some idea may be formed of the position of the officer charged with the responsibility of safeguarding and distributing the valuable goods contained in the warehouse. The Fiscaal was the Public Prosecutor. This was the office which in early British times was designated "Advocate Fiscal", then changed to Queen's Advocate, and now styled Attorney-General. The Negotie Boekhouder and Zoldy Boekhouder were respectively the Chiefs of the Trade Department and the Pay Office. The Political Secretary was at the head of the Secretariat, the executive department of the Government, from whence all the orders of the Government and Council were communicated to the other departments. In addition to these officers, but without a seat in the Council, was the "Visitateur", whose function it was to audit the accounts of the Government.

The Political Service, which corresponded to the Civil Service, was composed of several grades of officers, bearing appropriately, as servants of a trading company, certain commercial designations, as follows; Opperkoopman, senior merchant; Koopman, merchant; Onderkoopman, junior merchant; Boekhouder, book keeper; Adsistent, assistant; and Aankweekeling, apprentice. These officers were distributed among the various departments, and drew salaries, with allowances, ranging from 100 guilders a month, in the case of an Opperkoopman, to 9 guilders in that of an

Aankweekeling. The Governor's salary was 300 guilders and of each of the Commandeurs 120 guilders. All these also enjoyed certain allowances and perquisites in proportion to their rank.

Of the judicial institutions, the Raad van Justitie was the chief. It was a bench of magistrates (schepenen) composed of the Hoofd Administrateur as President, the Fiscaal, and eight or nine of the other senior members of the Political Council. It was seldom, however, that the whole of the bench assembled for the hearing of causes; but care was taken that one at least of the board present was a lawyer. The members of the Raad in rotation performed the duty of attesting conveyances of land, etc. Next to the Raad van Justitie was the Land Raad, established mainly for the benefit of the native inhabitants and for the disposal of their transactions affecting land. The Dessave presided over this court, which included among its members one or two of the principal Mudaliyars.

There were also a number of smaller courts or colleges to which the members were chosen annually from among the Company's Servants and Burghers. The names of these colleges sufficiently indicate the sphere of their duties. Of these the most important were the Court of Marriage Causes (Commissarissen der Huwelykse Zaaken), the Orphan Chamber (Weeskamer), the School Board (Scholarchen), the Wardens of the City (Wykmeesters), etc. Of other institutions special mention must be made of the Leper Asylum, which the Government maintained with great solicitude throughout the whole period of the Dutch occupation. There was also the Netherlands Hospital and the Orphanage. The Diaconate was a board composed of the members of the Church Council which had the control and distribution of the Poor Fund.

The Ecclesiastical Department took a very high place among the institutions of the Government. Churches and schools were established throughout the dominions of the Company, and the Clergy, who were all men of academical attainments, selected and trained for the Ministry, and ordained and sent out from Holland by the "Classes" there, held high rank among the Company's Servants, the highest grade of Predicant having the status of an Opperkoopman.

The subject of the Military Establishments does not call for any special remarks; but the Artizan Departments, under proper Government management, were a feature in the administration which might briefly be referred to. Each of these departments was under a European Superintendent, styled a "Baas." Thus there was the Baas der Huis en Scheeps Timmerlieden, Master of the House and Ships' Carpenters, a post which corresponded to that of a Director of Works. There was the Baas der Wapenkamer, of the Armoury; Baas der Smeden, of the Smiths; Baas der Pannebakkery, of the Tile Manufactory; Baas der Metzelaars, of the Masons. The foremen or Meester knechten in these establishments were also Europeans.

Those employed by the Dutch East India Company in various departments, civil and military, and drawing pay from the Public Treasury, were called Company's Servants, while those Europeans and European descendants who carried on an independent livelihood, chiefly by trade, were called Burghers. These enjoyed certain civic rights and privileges and were under the obligation of serving in the Militia or Burgery.

In the population within the jurisdiction of the Company was also included a class called "Tupasses", the offspring of Portuguese and natives of the East, who were employed in the lesser handicrafts and sometimes in menial offices. They were also on occasions drilled and trained for military service and formed into regiments. The Sinhalese in the service of the Company, besides the Chief Headmen, such as Mudaliyars, Muhandirams, Interpreters, etc., were mostly those employed as lascorins (native soldiers) and messengers. The Company also employed in their public works a large body of slaves whom they imported from Africa or drew from the south of India. The domestics in the Dutch households were almost entirely slaves. The possession, transfer, and emancipation of these slaves were governed by special laws and regulations.

The above is but a brief outline of a subject which I have treated at greater length in another work. It is the substance of a paper which I submitted to Government along with an Index on the eve of my retirement from office in 1921.

UP THE IRRAWADDY.

I had learnt in my schooldays that the Irrawaddy was one of the great rivers of Asia, but if anybody had at that time suggested that I should one day sail on its broad bosom I should have laughed at the very idea. Yet circumstances conspired to bring about such voyage. A slight breakdown in health necessitated a visit to the Doctor, who suggested a sea voyage to Europe as the best means of recovery, or failing that a voyage up the Irrawaddy. Not being blest with an abundance of this world's goods, I had perforce to choose the cheaper of the two trips, and so it came about that one day I found myself on board the good ship "Lancashire" en route to Rangoon, from where the ascent up the river begins. But in my case the steamer arrangements did not permit of my joining the river boat at the starting point but at Prome, a town 160 miles up the river.

There was nothing very noteworthy in the voyage from Colombo to Rangoon, which occupied five days. On the fourth day we passed the Andaman Islands, which are used as a penal settlement by the Government of Madras. Some years ago a Governor of Ceylon, shocked at the number of murders taking place in the island, conceived the idea of transporting for life to the Andamans prisoners convicted of the capital offence, in the belief that such a punishment would have a more deterrent effect than hanging, but the change does not appear to have had the desired effect, and I believe the practice has been discontinued.

On the morning of the fifth day we reached the mouth of the Rangoon River and took up a pilot, who steered the vessel up to Rangoon, a distance of about 21 miles. Unlike Ceylon, the largest steamers go right up to the wharf, and one has only to climb down a ladder from the steamer to *terra firma*. But great care has to be exercised in bringing the vessel alongside the wharf, the movement being so slow as to be almost imperceptible. During this process the friends of the passengers are all assembled in a large warehouse situated on the wharf, the entrances to which are kept barred, but all the while they are within talking distance of the passengers on board. The whole scene reminded me very strongly of a cage of wild animals, only waiting for the doors to open to make a rush on board. At last the vessel is safely moored and the whole crowd

swarm on board. The luggage of the passengers is carried off to what is called a "pen" in the warehouse I have already mentioned, where after certain formalities it is restored to them.

Rangoon is not situated on the Irrawaddy River, as is popularly supposed, but on the left bank of the Rangoon River, at its junction with the Panlang Creek, the Pazundaung Creek, and the Pegu River, being connected with the Irrawaddy River by a canal. As a village, Rangoon, under the name of Dagon, was, according to the legend usually accepted by the Burmans, founded about 585 B.C. by two brothers, Tapusa and Palikah, who erected the Shwe Dagon Pagoda on a slight ridge, over some hairs from Buddha's head, which they had received from Buddha himself and which they buried there. The village seems to have disappeared from history for a long period, but it was rebuilt and called Aramana by Ponnareeka, the King of Pegu, about 744 A.D. The Burmans occupied it in 1413 A.D. The town often afterwards changed hands and was frequently the scene of struggles between the Burmans and the Talaings, but eventually in 1755 Alompra captured it for the Burmans, repaired the Pagoda, and named the town Yan-Koon, i.e., the end of the war, or, as the Europeans call it, Rangoon, making it the seat of a Viceroy. The town was first occupied by the British from 1824 to 1827, when it reverted to the Burmans. It was again captured in 1852, from which date it has remained in British possession.

The principal sights in Rangoon are the Pagodas, the Agri-horticultural and Zoological gardens, the Royal lakes, and Dalhousie Park. The Shwe Dagon Pagoda, already mentioned, is supposed to be nearly 2500 years old, and has gradually been enlarged to its present dimensions. The "hti" or golden umbrella on the top was put on in 1871, and was the gift of King Mindoon of Mandalay. The portion below the "hti" or the "plantain fruit" was covered with solid gold plates in 1902. The Sule Pagoda stands on the site of a very ancient shrine, and is the reputed home of the spirit who watches over the Shwe Dagon Pagoda, and whose image is shewn in the north-east corner of the platform. The Botatoung Pagoda is said to have been built in A.D. 947 by the King of Twante to mark the spot where the body of his son Chinhanda, who had been drowned in the Pegu river, was cremated. The name signifies Bo-officer Tatoung-1000, and was given because it was erected by 1000 of the King's officers. It was at this

spot that the British troops landed in 1852, and on the platform of this Pagoda are the graves of some of the men as well as a large monument in memory of the officers and crew of H.M.S. "Fox."

British enterprise and the development of the country's natural resources have made Rangoon a finely-built and well laid-out city. Behind the array of wharves that line the northern bank of the river rise the buildings of the extensive business quarter, from which point the city slopes upward through the beautifully wooded cantonment to the foot of the slight eminence from which the great Shwe Dagon Pagoda looks down upon the town and harbour. In this quarter there is not a single building that is not more than two storeys high, the majority consisting of four and sometimes five storeys. The "flat" system is very much in vogue here, and while the ground floor is used for business purposes, the upper storeys are used for residential purposes. The streets are very wide and straight, with broad pavements on either side, and the lay-out has been planned so well that the whole city is divided up into blocks. The Government buildings are all situated in the business quarter, and in point of size and architectural beauty quite easily hold their own with the best of the private buildings.

The street nomenclature in Rangoon is rather peculiar, consisting as it does of both names as well as numbers. For every street with a proper name there are two streets with numbers—e g., 48th Street, 49th Street, etc. A good many of the streets and public places commemorate the deeds of distinguished Indian officials, e.g., Dalhousie Street, Bigandet Street, Fraser Street, Phayre Street, Fytche Square, etc. The origin of Judah Ezekiel Street is not very clear, unless it has some reference to the Baptist Church standing on a side of it. The American Baptist Mission has firmly established itself here and has a large book depôt in the town and a school in the suburbs.

The town is well served by a tramway system, with excellent bus services acting as an auxiliary and sometimes as a rival to it. The trams do not always keep a straight course but often turn into side streets. The fares are about the same as those in Colombo.

The vehicle most in use in Rangoon is the rickshaw, not the variety that we see here but the double rickshaw. This form of conveyance is availed of very largely by the less well-to-do classes, and the Burmese woman out marketing as well as the ordinary

workman make use of it to a far greater extent than their circumstances would seem to warrant. The more genteel form of conveyance is that known as the hackney carriage—a light vehicle resembling our palanquin carriage of former days and drawn by a diminutive pony. These are used very largely by those whose means do not run to a motor car for short trips within the business area.

The regulation of traffic has been reduced to a fine art in Rangoon. On most of the streets the vehicular traffic is very heavy, and crossing is attended with some danger at points where four roads converge. At such crossings two Police Constables—one European and one Indian—station themselves facing each other at either end on a raised platform with an overhead covering, and regulate traffic by means of a movable arm with the word "stop" on it. Traffic is only allowed to proceed along one road at a time, either up or down, the movable arm holding up traffic on the cross-road. After a few minutes the closed road is opened to traffic and the other road blocked and so on. The system seems to work very well and no attempt is made to get through a road when the hand indicates that it is closed. The European Police are a very efficient body and present a fine appearance in their white tunics, black trousers, and white helmets, which is their everyday uniform. The Indian policeman with peaked turban, blue coat, khaki trousers and blue putties is not less impressive.

I have already mentioned the broad pavements on each side of a road. These pavements serve a variety of purposes. Rangoon not being a garden city, there is no place where one can sit out and get a breath of fresh air. The pavements are therefore used for this purpose, and large numbers of people may be seen at nightfall seated on chairs and engaged in conversation. In those parts of the city where "eating houses" are situated, tables and chairs are placed in the centre of the pavements, and an *al fresco* meal is partaken of by those whose inclination runs that way. In the Chinese quarter the Chinaman may be seen busily plying his chopsticks over his meal consisting of several dishes. The Police do not seem to object to the use of the pavements for these purposes—indeed, there seems to be here very little of that petty tyranny exercised by the Police in some parts of the world.

The bungalows in the outskirts of the city are generally what we call upstair buildings, built of wood, and bounded by a neat hedge. Brick and mortar are very rarely used for this purpose.

An occupation carried on in Rangoon—or rather the description of it—which is calculated to give rise to some misconception in the mind of a stranger is that of "pinmen." In the business quarter are to be seen numerous boards with the legend "Hollandia Pinmen," "Copenhagen Pinmen," "Madras Pinmen," etc. By a natural association of ideas, I thought that this had something to do with tattooing, but on inquiry I found that "pinmen" were those who undertook the dry-cleaning of clothes.

The crow is as ubiquitous in Rangoon as it is in Ceylon, but for some reason which I was not able to fathom, it has not that full-throated caw which we are so used to.

It may not be generally known that the Portuguese and the Dutch at one time had a footing in Burma. In 1619 the Portuguese established factories at Martaban and Syriam. Later, the Dutch took Negrais, an island near the mouth of the Bassein River. They have now no interest in these places.

As I mentioned earlier, I caught the river boat to Mandalay at Prome, the journey being accomplished by train and occupying nine hours. The Burma Railways are on the metre gauge system (3 ft. $3\frac{3}{8}$ in.) They have no separate sleeping cars as we have, and therefore no separate payment has to be made for a sleeping berth. The ordinary first class carriages are used as sleeping berths and passengers have to provide their own bedding. Meals are not served on the train but may be had at refreshment rooms situated at convenient points on the railway. Owing to the operations of train dacoits, great care has to be taken to see that the doors and windows are securely fastened before proceeding to sleep. On the line on which I travelled, an Englishman had shortly before been stabbed to death by a dacoit who had boarded the train with a view to robbery.

Prome was reached in the early morning and the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's steamer "Java" boarded at once. This Company has contributed in no small measure to the prosperity of Burma. It was formed about 1860 and at first its operations were confined to Lower Burma, but in a very short time its steamer services were extended to Mandalay and Bhamo. When the war broke out in 1885, the Company placed all its resources at the disposal of the Government, and the success of the expedition was largely due to the facilities which it was able to offer. At the

present day there is not a navigable river or creek in Burma which is not served by steamers of this Company. From its own dock-yards in Rangoon and Mandalay it has launched during the last few years many new steamers. Special care has been taken in the provision of the passenger accommodation on these steamers. The cabins are large and roomy, fitted with electric light and fans, and very comfortably furnished. There is also ample accommodation for deck passengers, who avail themselves largely of the facilities provided. It is interesting to note that two of the steamers of this Company are named "Ceylon" and "Kandy" respectively.

A word here regarding the Irrawaddy River may not be out of place. This mighty stream takes its rise somewhere in Tibet and has an estimated course of 1,100 miles. The valley through which it flows gradually widens, and the river empties itself into the sea by ten principal mouths, which form at last a net-work of tidal creeks, like the Sunderbans of Bengal. It is navigable by steamers as far as Bhamo, 780 miles from its mouth. At some places the river is more than a mile in width. Owing to the presence of large sandbanks and the winding course which it takes, navigation at night is attended with much risk. The Irrawaddy Flotilla Company boats travel therefore only by day.

The scenery on either bank of the river is very monotonous. It consists of nothing but bare land stretching as far as the eye can reach, relieved at frequent intervals by pagodas, which are so numerous as to pall on one. Every little eminence is crowned by one or more pagodas. Occasionally the appearance of a sailing boat or river steamer imparts a little variety to the scene. Suddenly one sees in the distance a fiery ball. On closer approach this turns out to be the flamboyant tree in full bloom, marking the site of a village. This tree as well as the tamarind seem to find a very congenial soil here, and every village is planted with them. At each village is moored a large barge which serves the purpose of a landing jetty, and provides the means of communication between the ship and the shore. As soon as the steamer has been moored, the villagers flock on board in their gay attire, some out of mere curiosity, others to greet friends, others again to dispose of their merchandise. The duration of the stay at each town or village is about an hour, and about three stoppages are made a day. The most important town on the river is Yenangyoung on account of its oil wells. Here the Burma Oil Company is doing a big business in

the extraction of oil. The oil is obtained partly from wells dug by native labour but mainly by a system of regular boring by the Company, which purchases the oil obtained by the native workers and pays a royalty to the Government. From the wells the crude oil is conveyed by pipes to tanks on the river bank, where it is pumped into specially constructed flats or floating tanks, which are towed by the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's steamers to Rangoon and there refined.

A little personal incident which occurred at Yenangyoung may be related here for its humourous side. Having been delayed for an hour by a storm which converted the placid river for the time being into a miniature sea, and necessitated our casting anchor in mid river until the violence of the storm had abated, we reached Yenangyoung just as the shades of night were falling. As the steamer was not going to resume its voyage until the next morning, I decided to land and see something of the place. I was assured by a fellow-passenger that a taxi could be had on shore, but the nearest approach to this form of conveyance that was available was a bus, which I boarded in company with a mixed lot of passengers, and we began the steep and dusty ascent which led to the town. After a deal of trouble and the expenditure of much petrol we reached the top of the hill and proceeded some way up the town, where I parted company with the bus. Having seen what there was to see of the place, I prepared to return to the ship, but could not find my bearings owing to the darkness. I therefore hailed a gharry and directed the driver, who was accompanied by another, to take me to the Irrawaddy boat. We proceeded for some time along the road I had previously travelled and then took a new turn. After going a short distance the gharry came to a sudden halt, and the two men in the gharry made me understand that I was to get down. I did so, and the man who was not driving pointed down to a steep precipitous path and asked me to follow him. I demurred, thinking that the man's object was to take me to a lonely spot and rob me, but he insisted, so taking my courage in both my hands, or rather in one only, as I had thrown the other round the neck of my guide to support myself, I stumbled down the path, not being able to see a yard in front of me. My suspicions began to be strengthened when, in the course of our descent, my guide put his arm round my waist in the region of my pocket containing my purse. After much slipping and falling we at

last reached the bottom, and I was relieved to find that my suspicions regarding the honesty of my guide were groundless, as he had only brought me by a short cut to my destination. The inability to make myself understood was the cause of all the misapprehension, the Burman, unlike the native of Ceylon, knowing no English.

After calling at various towns and villages on the river, we reached Mandalay on the afternoon of the fifth day. This city was the last capital of the Kings of Burma, and here it was that King Thebaw was captured by the British in 1885, when the whole of Upper Burma was annexed. The city contains a fort built in the form of a square, each side of which is a little over a mile in length. The wall is 26 feet high and 3 feet thick and has 12 gates, three on each side. A deep moat, 100 feet broad, extends along the four sides and is crossed by five bridges.

King Mindoon Min's palace occupies the central space in the Fort. The outermost enclosure consists of a stockade of teakwood posts, 20 feet high, and within it are three successive enclosures bounded by brick walls. The front of the Palace, which faces the East, contains the Great Hall of Audience, 260 feet long, composed of teak timber, elaborately carved and gilded, and erected on a terrace of brickwork ten feet high. Behind this Hall are the Privy Council Chamber and other offices, and to the westward are the private apartments and the pleasure grounds. In the same enclosure also stand the treasury, arsenal, mint, stables of the white elephant, and a lofty clock tower. In the other two enclosures stand the Hall of the Supreme Council and the High Court.

The most remarkable thing in Mandalay from the point of view of the visitor from Ceylon is the use to which the tamarind tree is put. It is employed very largely as a shade tree, and lines both sides of the public streets for miles. In most respects Mandalay is only a small edition of Rangoon, but it is surprising that a town of its size and importance should not have an up to date Hotel. In the Guide Books it is credited with the possession of a Hotel called the Bristol Hotel, but on going to this place I found it temporarily closed. In default of a suitable hotel I had to take shelter in what is known as a *dak* bungalow, a lodging house corresponding to our Rest House but not up to the same standard.

The return journey to Rangoon was made by train, the distance from Mandalay being 386 miles. Two days were spent at Rangoon and then once again I boarded the "Lancashire," which spends ten days at Rangoon discharging and taking in cargo. A five days' voyage on a calm sea brought a very interesting trip to a close.

T.

VESTIGES OF DUTCH OCCUPATION IN THE HAMBANTOTA DISTRICT.

BY R. L. B.

(Continued)

(3.) Tangalle.

Some people associate the name with a legend and say that when a holy *sanyasi* sat to his frugal mid-day meal on a rock overlooking the sea, the rock was miraculously turned into gold. *Ran-gala* would mean the golden rock. The Buddhist shrine which at one time occupied the central position of the mound overlooking Tangalle Bay, was, they say, built on the spot singled out in this strange manner by the gods.

Others again assert that the anchorage at Tangalle was in days long past sheltered by a rocky arm which jutted into the sea, and that *Tan-gala* means the projecting rock.

Be the derivation of the name what it may, this townlet which has grown around a cliff-bound coast, amidst picturesque vistas of bold promontaries, sweeping bays and glistening crescents of sand—reckoned by many an authority as the prettiest in Ceylon—offers many vestiges which date back to the days of its occupation by the Dutch.

We linger a moment gazing over the largest of its bays. It is of considerable extent, four miles from the Tangalle point to the extreme point of land opposite. The foam-crested breakers which stretch over a line joining the corners of the segment of fore-shore, tell of extensive and dangerous reefs hidden below the water. Nevertheless, we are led to believe from the charts of old that a narrow channel nine fathoms in depth, which gives access to an anchorage described as safe when the South-West monsoon blows, does exist.

When or how the Dutch discovered this cove is a matter of conjecture. What is certain, however, is that both their fighting-ships and merchantmen often took shelter behind these reefs. We might take it as equally certain that when they originally arrived, they found the entire precincts of the modern town an extensive courtyard of the historic temple which occupied the central position of the mound.

These limits were definitely marked out by a broad masonry ramp nearly five feet high, forming with its two ends terminating on the sea-front a segment nearly half a mile in length.

The temple today stands reconstructed on the outskirts of the town. The most venerated spot of the old edifice remains marked off by a weather-worn, blackened, crumbling wall enclosing a rectangular space, while disintegrated sections of the ramp may be traced in the compounds of many a private bungalow or lie exposed by the gradual erosion on the line of coast.

There is nothing to suggest that drastic changes attended the early arrival of the Dutch. One might infer quite the contrary from the striking absence of any reference whatever to Tangalle by the writers of this early period.

Heydt, if no other, would, there is little doubt, have made even passing reference to the place in view of his lucid descriptions of the forts and interesting features in the vicinity.

Consequently we accept the surmise that in the early days of Dutch occupation there was nothing to lend distinction to the place. This conjures up the picture of a lonely out-post, with no more than a small "godown" and a handful of the Company's servants to mark it as such.

The latter one realises was not intended to hold the territory against an enemy, but rather to control the taxes payable on paddy, and to exercise supervision over the organisation for the capture of elephants for which the district was famous.

And so we pass on to the dark days of 1760-61, overshadowed by what has come down to be known as the Matara Rebellion.

On the opening day of the year 1761 there was a force of 112 strong under the Ensign Quinix at Tangalle. Serious trouble was brewing. There was a scarcity of water. Those in authority considered it expedient to withdraw from the station.

A certain feast day of the Sinhalese, possibly it was a "poya day," offered a favourable opportunity. While the insurgents were occupied with the ceremonies connected with the particular event they commemcrated, the detachment boarded a ship under cover of night. On or about the 20th of January they arrived safely at Matara. A sloop riding at anchor in the Bay of Tangalle, stationed there mainly to afford succour to any individual or force which might wander in from the outlying forts, was all that remained for a time to maintain a hold on the station.

But the Dutch had learnt their lesson. When their organisations shortly afterwards once again spread over this maritime belt, they concentrated on better schemes for holding their out-posts.

The result of their labours in this direction at Tangalle is what a modern writer describes as "the ubiquitous Dutch fort." It stands to this day occupying what one might consider the most strategic position where at one period stood the temple.

In type and plan this fortification differs from many of the other forts associated with Dutch times. There is a remarkable absence of massive ramparts, its four main walls enclosing a space likened to a rhombus in shape rising sheer upwards to a height of nearly thirty feet. From two opposite angles of this structure a pair of bastions, considerably lower in height and terminating in a point, add to the defensive aspect of the fortification. There is however little in its interior features to give an idea as to what it was like in the days of the Dutch. The structure has undergone considerable alteration in modern times to meet the requirements of a country gaol.

Should you visit the Tangalle resthouse, an object which will obviously catch your eye the moment you enter is a stone slab let into the topmost step leading on to the main verandah. It bears the following inscription in bold, familiar characters :—

DOORMYN

op. gebouwt

A. J. 1774.

It may be, as some old residents hold, that this inscribed stone was carried down from the Fort, and was in later years set up in its present position when certain modern additions were carried out to the resthouse. If so this offers a clue to the exact date of the building of the Fort. Still the resthouse too is a structure dating to Dutch times, later used by the British as a residence for the Commandant of the station. Would the construction of such an insignificant building merit a token of commemoration ? We are compelled to leave the tantalising question in the maze of unwritten history, and so wander away to seek out other buildings of a contemporaneous age in the town.

Two of these, the Court-house and the residence of the District Judge, show even to the present day no sign of decay. The gables and the verandahs of these buildings bear witness to architecture typically Dutch. The structure used as a court-house bears striking resemblance to the usual type of Dutch church. Whether or not it served such a purpose in bygone days rests again on conjecture.

Passing reference has been made to the scarcity of water in Tangalle. Today, as yesterday and possibly for many tomorrows, the scarcity of this elemental necessity will link the inhabitants of Tangalle in a common bond with their forebears.

In the centre of a little pond formed in a depression at the foot of the mound on which the Fort stands, the Dutch built a well. On each side of the embankment leading up to it, across the pond, they planted a row of *suriya* trees to diffuse shade. To say that it has served its purpose would be unfair, for even today during the evening hours it is the rendezvous of the maidens of the indigenous population of the town each armed with a pitcher for water and many a young spark who drives a water cart thither.

In type of construction this well is certainly unique. When the pond is filled by the periodical rains the water percolates from below the foundation of the outer walls and maintains its level within. When the drought sets in and the pond presents an aspect of mud cracked into fantastic patterns and baked to a cast-iron hardness the well exposes a charcoal bed. Here then is the process of filtration resorted to by the Dutch.

If the design courted flattery, it is offered in the sincerest form by a replica of more modern construction in the twin-pond adjoining. Nevertheless, unlike the Chinese tailor immortalised as the most faithful copyist in the story of how, on being given an old pair of trousers for pattern, he faithfully reproduced the patch on the new one he worked, the designer of the modern well has omitted the most important feature in the imitation—the charcoal filter bed.

Next, accompany the writer to the outskirts of the town, on to the bund of a little tank which carries the quaint name Annapitiya. Almost at the junction where two arterial roads radiate and throb through the livelong day with their load of modern traffic, there stands a crumbling monument built over an old-time grave.

Tracing out the letters on the head-stone with difficulty, you read the following legend :

Here alas, lays buried under
From soul and spirit asunder
The body
of Lady
MARIA DOROTHY KETELHACK
who was in her life a meritorius wife
to
Mr. LAWRENCE PETER ALTENDORF,
Chief Clerk to the Catcherry of Tangalle.
Born at Cochin 1761
and expired 16th of April A.D. 1819, at Tangalle.

Though not rightly a vestige of Dutch times, this poetical epitaph—an effort it would appear of a Dutchman who had but recently acquired a knowledge of English—presents a link with bygone times and evokes a feeling of sympathy when one comes to consider the present aspect of the place of burial.

Incidentally, L. Petrus Altendorf was possibly only in later times the Chief Clerk of the Tangalle Kachcheri—if we may infer this from the fact that in the year 1797—98 we find him renting the salt farm of the Magam Pattu for 1,200 Rds.

But to come back to the name Annapitiya, its quaintness and a fascinating story which lends weight to its derivation allures one on to a short digression.

There is a legend which tells that a vast concourse of Negombo fishermen, Karawas by caste, finding that their settlements were overcrowded, made up their minds to migrate to some other spot. They, however, resolved that they would on no account make for land till they made a catch of a hundred seer fish in one day. With this object in view they took their boats and worked down the coast. But days passed and they met with no success till they arrived off the bay of Tangalle. Here they caught the specified number and more, so rowing for the land they made arrangements to settle on the spot.

Tangalle at this time was a stronghold of the Halias, or Cinnamon Peelers, who formed a vast organisation under the Dutch. They naturally resented this intrusion. A fierce fight ensued. But so strong were the numbers of the new arrivals that the Halias were massacred and their bodies thrown into a large hole.

Hali-wala remains to this day as the place-name of a spot outside Tangalle.

A little Haliya girl, terrified by what she beheld, ran away from the scene of this bloody encounter and made for the town. On an open space near the tank she sat down and there gave vent to her feelings in sobs and cries. Somebody in authority noticed her, and so the news of the massacre was told. *Anna-pitiya*, the open spot (plain) where she (cried), will ever remain to bear out the story.

Before we turn from this fascinating subject, the derivation of place-names, here is one other striking example which goes to show how strangely they come to stay :

The name *Rekawa,* indicating a village, stands marked on modern maps, and includes all that stretch of coast-line rounding the extreme limits of the Tangalle Bay in an Easterly direction. Now, in a more remote past, it was known as Siriwantuduwa, and on this "duwa" or cape the Dutch constructed a look-out and stationed a few guards, since the approach from this direction by sea was naturally hidden from the observer stationed on top of the Fort. *Rekawa* means a look-out or sentry post and the name comes down from the days of the Dutch.

Hatagalla Kalapuwa, if unnoticed by some who pass along the Tangalle-Hambantota road, cannot, one should imagine, have escaped the attention of sportsmen. Teal float on its rush-covered margins, numbers of blue-coot roam about over the lotus leaves, making the stillness echo with their low, mournful cry. But we seek a link with the period of Dutch occupation, whose story is told in a quaintly-worded deed which reads as follows :—

Translation of a Sinhalese Sannas-Ola.

To the residents of Tangalle, Gikine Baddenege Madoemen, who is an employee of the Elephant Department or Badana, is granted the honorific (patabendi) name of Moenetoenge Aatjele, as well as a piece of barren marshy land which brings no profit to the Hon'ble Company called Karredie-

oodedalewarrepattimooroewe situated at Kannoekettie next to the village Heatagalle on the upper side of the water-course or stream called Kallemetikalupuwagilma, which land he must suitably provide with bunds, clear and sow, and report after the lapse of three years how much of it he has sown, in order that the same may be possessed by him.

Thus written at Tangalle in the year 1743 the 10 of December

(Sgd.) G. KRASSE,

(The then Dissava of Matara).

Produced before C. M. Anthonisz, Notary, on the 16th of March, 1842, who certifies that this agrees with Dutch Records.

Beyond a striking shady avenue of Kumbuk trees, between the road and the lagoon, there lies this bit of land which in name carries an alphabet-load of letters. More cruelty, intrigue and even bloodshed have possibly centred around it through disputes to ownership, than ever attended the particular pursuit in exchange for which service the land was granted.

Hambantota offers a memorial of Dutch occupation in its martello tower, even though it may be "half-caste" as Bennet would have one realise it is. It stands on a wind-swept, exposed mound, and is today, in common with the Star Fort at Matara, in the hands of the P.W.D. On its East side, within fifty yards of the sea, is another Dutch building, later a Commandant's house, and now the residence of the District Engineer.

Leading away from Hambantota, through the dense jungles now the Yala Sanctuary, an old-time Dutch road passed on to Batticoloa. It stands marked on most modern large-scale plans of area. Game and elephants have helped to keep sections of this road clear from the ever encroaching jungle. Consequently one may wander along them still.

But this leads away from the Hambantota District, away from the vestiges of Dutch times which lie within that area. Though much has been done from time to time to accumulate facts, still as years go by, much more concerning these relics will have passed into the realm of legend.‡

‡ See Notes and Queries.

"THE DUTCH IN CEYLON"

A REVIEW.

Works, dealing with the period in the history of Ceylon which coincides with the Dutch rule, are not wanting; but they are lacking in the essential qualities needed to give them historical value,—being neither connected, complete and concise, nor (above all) accurate. Hence it is that Mr. R. G. Anthonisz's "The Dutch in Ceylon" will meet a real want.

The first volume, just issued, treats of the years 1640-1765, leaving subsequent volumes to deal with the period extending to 1796, the year that witnessed the end of the Dutch occupation.

The object of the author in undertaking this work (and who more competent than he to undertake it?) was clearly not merely to chronicle the events that occurred during the 156 years of Dutch rule, but to provide a narrative which will give the reader a definite idea of "the character and conduct of the colonists, and the nature of the service rendered by them to the country and its inhabitants" It is such a narrative, not a compendium of facts and dates, that gives value to a historical work, and enables the reader to visualise the political and domestic life of a past age.

As Government Archivist, Mr. Anthonisz had ample opportunities for gaining an insight into the life and activities of the Dutch in Ceylon; and these opportunities he exploited to the full, and with an intensiveness that is to be found only in those who can claim kinship with the very people they are writing about.

Happily for us, it was given to Mr. Anthonisz, after a life of arduous research, to enjoy his *otium* amid rural surroundings; and, in this ideal environment for an author, to ruminate on the mass of detail relating to Colonial-Dutch history with which his mind was stocked. But even more happy was his decision, when released from the trammels of official routine, to give free rein to his literary penchant, and write an authentic account of the Dutch rule in the Colony.

The narrative style in which the book is written is captivating; and, in perusing it, one conceives the notion that one is reading a story and not conning history. Take, for instance, the account of how Joris van Spilbergen, the first Dutchmen who sailed to the East,

set foot on these shores at Batticaloa on May 31st, 1602; how he there heard of a king who had his court at Kandy; how he set forth accompanied by only ten men, some of whom played on different musical instruments, and was met by the King's messengers with pipes and drums; how, at Alutnuwara, he was entertained for the space of two days by a royal princess, and on proceeding thence, was met by a party of couriers bearing refreshments, in the shape of fruit and wine prepared from grapes grown by the King "as good as any in Portugal"; and how ultimately there hove in sight an escort of 1000 armed men carrying banners, as, with two trumpeters marching in front, the intrepid Joris approached the King's palace. All this reads like a fairy tale and grips the reader.

Even at that remote period we find the West contributing to the art of the East; for a passing reference tells how Spilbergen, at the King's desire, presented His Majesty with some of his musical instruments, and also left behind two men who were skilled performers on them. One cannot help wishing that the author had told us what the musical instruments were that Joris van Spilbergen gave king Vimala Dharma Suriya.

While complimenting Mr. Anthonisz on his literary achievement, on the signal service he has rendered his community, and the useful contribution he has made to the historical literature of the day, we would express the hope that the second volume of this fascinating book will not be long in making its appearance.

C. D.

SOME MARRIAGES IN COLOMBO FROM A. D. 1700 TO 1750.

(Compiled by R. G. ANTHONISZ.)

(*Continued from Vol. XVIII, page 183.*)

A. D. 1715.

5 Feb. —Pieter Jansz van Colombo, vrye toepas en inwoonder alhier, jongman, met Anna Catharina van Rhee mede van Colombo, jonge dogter.

10 do. —Jacobus van Meeuwen van Utrecht, boekhouder in dienst der E. Comp. en Hoofd tot Kilkare, jongman, met Anna Elisabeth de Vriest van Jaffanapatnam, jonge dogter.

24 do —Willem Voers van Colombo, bussemaker in dienst der E. Comp. weduwenaar, met Nathalia Sweeris mede van Colombo, jonge dogter.

7 April —Gerrit Backer van Zutphen, portier deser stede, jongman, met Sophia Voerts van Colombo, jonge dogter.

5 Mey —Frans Bouwens van Colombo, tamboer in dienst der E. Comp., jongman, met Louisa Rodrigo mede van Colombo, jonge dogter.

26 do. —Jan Verbiest van Colombo, pl. adsistent in dienst der E. Comp., jongman, met Francina de Soysa, mede van Colombo, jonge dogter.

5 Juny —Cornelis Takel van Amsterdam, onderkoopman in dienst der E. Comp., jongman, met Maria Zager van Colombo, jonge dogter.

18 Aug. —Hendrick Teckoff van Leyden, schoolmr. in 't Weeshuys alhier, jongman, met Elizabeth de Vos, van Colombo, weduwe van den Corporaal Jan Hendricksz.

1 Sep. —Joannes Hackkaart van Amsterdam, pl. coopman en tweede visitateur de Ceylonsche Negotie Boeken alhier, weduwenaar, met Christina Eggers van Colombo, wed. wylen den Luyt. Esaias Fleournhoy.

15 do. —Thomas Jansz van Colombo, pl. adsistent in dienst der E. Comp., jongman, met Elisabeth Mooyaart van Colombo, jonge dogter.

22 Sep. —Theunis Holst van Christiana, meester knegt, van de smits winkel alhier, met Marya Kellens van Colombo, jonge dogter.

13 Oct. —Andries Menk van Lubeck, quart. mr., jongman, met Francina Dias van Colombo, jonge dogter.

20 do. —Willem Adrianus van Rekum van Amsterdam, meester knegt van de Wapenkamer alhier, jongman, met Christina Schade van Colombo, jonge dogter.

A.D. 1716.

23 Feb. —Jan Paul Baurseex van Sonnenberg, organist in dienst der E. Comp., jongman, met Susanna Heydelberg van Colombo, wed. wylen den boekhouder Hendrik Verbrugge.

1 Maart —Andries Simonsz Schynvoet van Amsterdam, adsistent in dienst der E. Comp., weduwenaar, met Anna Lives van Colombo, weduwe.

15 do. —Nicolaus van der Velde van Maastricht, Corpl. in dienst der E. Comp., jongman, met Joanna de Pays van Negapatnam, jonge dogter.

31 May —Cornelis Galikam van Colombo, boekhouder ten dienst der E. Comp., weduwenaar, met Susanna Verbiest van Colombo, weduwe van den adsistent Lambert van Campen.

6 Sep. —Jacob Stuurman van Colombo, soldaat, jongman, met Marya Sicquet van Colombo, jonge dogter.

8 Nov. —Christaan Bok uyt Brandenburg, sergt., jongman, met Geertruyda van Gelem van Colombo, jonge dogter.

15 do. —Richard Kellens van Colombo, vryburger alhier, weduwenaar, met Huyberta Florentina van Rhee van als boven, jonge dogter.

13 Dec. —Willem Hartzing van Batavia, adsistent in dienst der E. Comp., jongman, met Marta Pieper van van Colombo, jonge dogter.

(*To be continued.*)

PEEPS INTO THE PAST.*

It is a great honour and a pleasure to me to say here a few words about the life and conditions of our mutual ancestors during the period of the Dutch East India Company. The trend of events has made it impossible to use here the Dutch language, once familiar to all of them. In addressing you therefore in English to-night, I do so in the full hope that you will show all the indulgence and patience that is due to a lecturer speaking in a foreign tongue.

You will forgive a student of colonial history if he cannot refrain from speaking on this sacred soil of the glorious work done by our forefathers. The key-note of our history is strife and suffering, leading however to absolute success. It is not my task to remind you here of the hardships of the Dutch Republic, the struggle for freedom, so inborn in our race, that made Holland the asylum in Europe for all who were persecuted elsewhere on account of religion or of political circumstances. Nor need I recall to your minds that world-famous branch of the Dutch nation, the South-Africanders, and their struggle for independance, which they have now practically recovered.

It is a strange story how the salt necessary for the preservation of the herring led the Dutch to the carrying trade, to the acquaintance with eastern products, and to the desire of buying them at the place of origin. This caused the Hollanders to force their way on the Portuguese trail to the Indies; and the quest of the India sea-route, full of suffering and hardships, was crowned with success. The keen competition of the Hollanders with their fellow-countrymen in the provinces of Zeeland and Brabant led to the establishment of the limited Company with the well known trade-mark, the interlaced initials V. O. C. still to be seen in the most remote parts of the East as witnesses of Dutch energy. Then the foreigners had to be faced, and, backed up by the authority of the States-General, the fame of the Princes of Orange, a wise diplomacy and, where necessary, the force of arms, in spite of Portuguese, Spaniards, Frenchmen, Englishmen, and Danes, the Dutch Colonial Empire came into existence.

*A lecture delivered by Dr. G. Molsbergen in the D. B. U. Hall on the 25th January, 1929, of which the above is a summary.

Relations with the Empires of Asia forced the Company to send ambassadors to Persia, China, Japan, Siam, Ceylon, and to the native princes of the Archipelago, each potentate to be dealt with in various ways, according to the customs and moods of the oriental Emperors, Moguls, Sultans, Mikados, and Rajahs.

Mushroom-like the Dutch factories sprang up in the vast stretch of country from Arabia to Japan, and a successful trade made the Company's shares coveted in the financial world of those days.

Intellectual profits came side by side with financial success, not only to the Dutch Republic, but also to all scholars of Europe, practically in every department of science. Botany and natural history were promoted by *Van Rheede tot Drakesteyn* and *Rumphius*, whose standard works on the vegetation of Malabar and of Amboina, (*Rumphius* also dealing with the fauna) will be of lasting value. In connection with botany, Governor *Loten's* name has also to be mentioned here.

Grotius, whom the capture by the Hollanders of a Portuguese richly-laden carrack induced to write his essay on "the right of making prizes," *de Jure praedae* (one of the chapters being the much discussed *Mare liberum*, the Free Sea), ranks with the greatest lawyers of mankind.

Abraham Rogerius, the learned clergyman, who wrote an important work on Hinduism, gave his contemporaries the first glimpses of Sanskrit; another clergyman, *Johan Maurits Mohr* possessed in the eighteenth century at Batavia the first astronomical observatory in the Southern hemisphere.

An encyclopædic scholar like the Burgomaaster of Amsterdam, *Nicolaas Witsen* encouraged research work in every direction in the vast realm of the Company. Collections of natural history, sent from the Indies, formed part of a Dutch well-furnished residence, where Chinaware and the use of tea and coffee became quite familiar. Dutch learning was a blessing to Japan, a fact still gratefully remember by the intellectuals of that country.

The Dutch East India Company did not allow any European to go to India, except in the service of the Company. What were the several positions open to the servants? The posts to be filled showed clearly the double character of the Company—both merchant and ruler.

Originally it was nothing but a mercantile body, not intending to conquer territory or to form an extensive realm in the Far East. Gradually, as contracts and treaties granting the right of trade were entered into, the Company found itself compelled to enforce upon the indigenous princes the due observance of these agreements.

A military force thus became necessary, not only on board the Indiamen for service against corsairs and European enemies, but also in forts and strongholds, built in the various countries. Trade, however, was the principal aim, and the Directors in the Netherlands considered the military requirements as a necessary evil. It is obvious that the post of merchant was considered of the highest importance in a trading Company—the stepping-stone to greater honour, not seldom to the position of Governor-General of India.

Many of the merchants got the post by reason of being relatives and friends of the Directors or of high officials; but many a merchant started his career as a soldier or sailor and rose to the highest rank. A complete staff of bookkeepers, cashiers, storekeepers, clerks, &c., assisted the merchants.

The soldiers were the most poorly paid of all. Their wages were excessively low, 9 Rupees per month, and were paid in a very queer way, viz. one quarter in coins of depreciated value, so as to give a profit of 33⅓ per cent to the Company, one quarter in wearing-apparel. The rest was left on account and settled in Holland after their return, when the five years' service was completed. Still, becoming a soldier might mean placing the foot on the first rung of the ladder leading to honour and riches. The majority, however, failed to reach even a position that would ensure them a living wage, and came to ignominy. The best of them tried to effect an improvement of position either by applying for a post as carpenter, mason, cooper, &c., or by being released from service and becoming "vryburghers" under the rule and jurisdiction of the Company. The higher officials considered their posts in the various settlements as temporary; at any moment they might be summoned to act elsewhere.

To promote colonisation the Directors sent families and women from Holland. But the stimulus of religious persecution, which resulted in English and French families leaving for other countries, did not exist in the Dutch Republic, and those who were making a living in their wealthy fatherland were not anxious to venture upon

the hardships of a new life under the very unpopular rule of the East India Company. An actor at Amsterdam expressed the general view by saying: "I prefer acting as King or Prince, while free in Holland, to being a slave in India." The same complaints as those that were made by the Governors of Virginia are to be found in the letters from the officials in India. Their attempt to settle in the Malay Archipelago was such a failure, that about the year 1630 the majority of those who went out returned to Holland.

The Company tried to keep the freeburghers in India by raising the fares on the homeward-bound vessels. The Directors did not wish to send out well-to-do people, who might be able to encroach upon the monopoly, so carefully guarded by the Company. The only way open seemed to be to release servants who had completed their contract, not allowing them the right of trading privately.

As soon as the settlement at the Cape proved a sucess, the Directors tried to form a class of free farmers, consisting at first of former servants of the Company, but later on including also freed slaves. Their corn and cattle would be of use for supplying the outward and homeward-bound fleets, in addition to replenishing the Company's stock. Many soldiers, however, who expected an improvement of their position, were disappointed, and found that there was a great difference between *a free burgher* and a "*freeburgher.*" As many of them were unfit for farming under circumstances quite different from those obtaining in their native land, they re-entered the service of the Company.

Politically the free burghers were in as good a position as in Holland, and possessed more rights than anywhere else on the Continent in the seventeenth century. Government in Holland was in the hands of an aristocratic section and the rich merchants ruled in town, province and country.

The "burgher" or the farmer was not represented in municipal council, provincial Government or States-General. But they were well cared for and enjoyed in liberty the results of the labour and ability which they had put into their business. The heavy taxes of Holland "where every thing was taxed except the air," as some one said, were counterbalanced in the Indies by the fact that everything had to be bought from the Company, which did not lose the opportunity of making a considerable profit on the transaction. So the taxes were paid in another form, and for the rest the free-

burghers were at liberty to manage their affairs, so long as they did not clash with the interests of the Company.

The Commanders and Governors were very careful in regard to the releasing of servants. Only those of good behaviour were set free, and as a guarantee for good conduct they had to leave six months' salary in the hands of the Company for two years. This regulation was instituted as a check on the men who applied for release only with the intention of spending the salary due to them and then returning to service. Still many professed a love for agriculture with no other aim than to live on the frontier, where barter and smuggling with the natives were easy.

Married men were preferred to single servants, as it was thought that they would stay longer and do their best for their families. The lazy, debauched and criminal freeburghers were severely punished and banished. The principle of the survival of the fittest is to be seen at work in the European population under the Dutch East India Company.

The Company took a keen interest in the welfare of the freeburghers, and in order to exhibit its patriarchal care, it ordered what was to be done or to be left undone. Weights and measures were under control. Horses under three years of age might not be used. The prices at which bread, meat and wine, &c., were to be sold were fixed. The baking of cake was forbidden in time of scarcity of corn. The clean water from the mountains, so valuable to the ships, might not be soiled by washing clothes, the bathing of slaves, or otherwise. Ill-treatment of slaves was strictly forbidden, so was any barter or trade, which might spoil the profits of the Company.

By doing all this, the Company secured two ends : it served its own interests and at the same time gave guidance to a class of men who were not accustomed to have a share in government or administration. The training thus provided resulted after many generations in making the colonists fit for self-government, and at the end of the eighteenth century they were conscious of their fitness. Here I have only to mention the name of *Quint Ondaatje*, who took an active part in the revolution in Holland at the end of the eighteenth century.

The Company only interfered when the general safety or good order was endangered. For instance, before the parade no inn might be open ; the burghers summoned to assist in constructing public works were fined if they came drunk.

Severe punishments and heavy fines were imposed on the culprits, and the Fiscaal or public prosecutor was one of the most feared men. Cruelty in corporal punishment, to be found all over Europe in those days, was not wanting in the dominion of the Company. You all know the fate of the cruel Ceylon Governor *Petrus Vuyst* who was beheaded on account of his misrule.

Very soon a distinction is to be seen between well-to-do and poor freeburghers. The poor were assisted in every way both by the Company and the Church, in whose affairs the Directors took an active part ; some burghers earned so much money that they sent it to Batavia, as a loan to the Company. This wealth enabled many of the burghers to send their children to the universities of Holland and Germany, and many of them, both in Ceylon and elsewhere, rose to high positions, just as their descendants do now under the British Government.

The East India Company was for centuries the training school, a moral gymnasium, to the families that had settled in its dominions.

As we are here together, let us be thankful to the Honourable Dutch Company, still more thankful to our ancestors, who collaborating both in Government and in religious matters with that Company, became builders of the still existing Colonial Empire—the Dutch East Indies, of which the Dutch Burghers of Ceylon, although politically belonging to the British Empire, continue to be valuable members.

BY THE WAY.

(NOTES BY NIEMAND)

The "Ceylon University College Magazine" for February 1929 has no Table of Contents, but it has two references to Dutch literature. There are two translations, by B.R.B., of Dutch lyrics into English verse; and L.S. (whom we all know, and who once lectured in a D.B.U. course of lectures) has an all too short review of W. J. B. Pienaar's "English Influences in Dutch Literature", published by the Cambridge University Press at fifteen shillings.

* * *

"The book should be of special interest", writes L.S., "to many readers in Ceylon, where evidences of Dutch rule are still to be seen, e.g., architecture and law." A Dutch writer, Justus van Effen, published translations which "first introduced Swift, Defoe, Shaftesbury, and Mandeville (himself a Dutchman) to Dutch readers." Is it possible that Defoe was also of Dutch origin? His grandfather was merely Foe and was the first to add the *De* to his name; and the mention of Foe recalls humorous verse written in Ceylon in the early years of British rule.

* * *

The "Mandeville (himself a Dutchman)" was Bernard de Mandeville, whom the Encyclopedia Britannica describes as an "English philosopher and satirist." He was born at Dordrecht in 1670 and went over to England as a young man. He learnt English so well that "many refused to believe he was a foreigner." His chief work in English was "The Fable of the Bees", a satire describing the English political theories of the time, and arriving at the conclusion that "private vices are public benefits."

* * *

The famous Mandeville is, however, Sir John Mandeville, whose real name was Jehan de Mandeville. His book of travels had a great vogue, but this, it is believed, was mostly written by a Liege physician who compiled it from various sources. But Sir John lived in the 14th Century, Bernard in the eighteenth.

* * *

Another Dutchman who went as a young man to England and there rose to eminence was Anthony Dyck. It is good to note that a memorial to him was quite recently (last March) placed in St.

Paul's Cathedral, London. The inscription runs:—"To the illustrious memory of Anthony van Dyck, the Flemish Master, who, in 1632, was made Principal Painter in Ordinary to King Charles I and Queen Henrietta Maria, and, having enriched England with many famous portraits, died at Blackfriars in this City on December 9, 1641, and was buried in Old St. Paul's. His monument perished in the Great Fire, but his name is imperishable."

* * *

The Dutch Archives in Colombo have been much before the public lately. The valuable article by Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, which was printed in the April JOURNAL, and reprinted in some of the daily newspapers, described effectively the way in which the Archives Office began, and was carried on. With growing interest in the history of the Dutch period in Ceylon, there has been a growing interest in the Archives. It is beginning to be understood that without an intimate knowledge of the Dutch period, the present development of affairs in Ceylon cannot be fully explained. Government was at length persuaded that an expert should be called in to report on the Archives.

* * *

Dr. E. C. Godee Molsbergen, Government Archivist at Batavia, arrived here in December last, and his Report, dated 15th February 1929, was published as a Sessional Paper in April. It is an interesting document and will repay perusal. As is usual in Reports of this nature, it begins with historical notes—the Report of the Donoughmore Commission is another example. One fact, not generally known, emerges, that in the 17th and part of the 18th Centuries, Ceylon was more important as a trade centre than Java, though Batavia was the headquarters of the Dutch dominions from the Cape of Good Hope to Japan.

* * *

The documents preserved in the Archives on the relations between the Dutch and the Kandyans and Low-country Sinhalese "constitute a most important factor in the history of Ceylon during the period, *and the constitutional data in connection with land tenure may be compared only with the Domesday-Book.*" So writes Dr. Molsbergen, and it is no wonder he grew enthusiastic.

* * *

He points out three ways in which old collections of documents are liable to damage, and adds: "In order to preserve what still

remains of such records, the practice in various countries is to publish systematically selections from the records." He admits that something of this has been done in Ceylon, but not enough, and not fully in accord with present day requirements, for the original text must accompany the English translation.

* * *

It is hoped that the Government will take note of this and arrange for a systematic publication of the remaining records, in both Dutch and English. Only one has so far appeared in the correct modern style, and that was nearly two years ago.

* * *

It would be impossible, of course, for any report on the Archives to omit any reference to the work of our first Archivist, and Dr. Molsbergen has (rather grudgingly, it seems to me) indicated some of the work done by Mr. R. G. Anthonisz. But what we might have expected, the graceful and just recognition of what Mr. Anthonisz has achieved during twenty years of service, is unaccountably missing. Dr. Molsbergen says this thing has not been done, and that thing has been done, but not in the way that people do it now. It all sounds like quarrelling because people did not use the telephone or the X Rays twenty years ago ; or travel in motor-cars, or build five-storeyed offices.

* * *

The learned doctor will by this time have read the much more interesting and certainly more useful account of the Archives published in the April number of this JOURNAL ; and he will probably compare the state of things when Mr. Anthonisz took up his work in 1899 with what Dr. Molsbergen found in Batavia a few years ago when *he* took up *his* work. The Doctor entered into a Department already distinguished, well constituted, liberally subsidized, and thoroughly equipped with the newest conveniences, including "fumigation chests", woodfree paper, and "Normaal" ink. In due course, he will rise "to the position and salary of a 'High Official' (Hoofd Ambtenaar)" with a salary of 1,300 guilders a month.

* * *

Contrast this with the circumstances in which our first Archivist found himself, and one becomes aware at once of the difference. One feels that a comparison would even be ludicrous.

In 1899 the Dutch records which, according to Dr. Molsbergen, are comparable only with the Domesday Book, were huddled together on a few shelves in a Government Office. Apparently no one knew what to do with them, and no one cared. One day, an ex-Government Officer claimed some land, and challenged Government to produce a Dutch document referring to it. Mr. R. G. Anthonisz was brought all the way from Sabaragamuwa to search for this document, and thus the Archives Office was begun.

* * *

The whole story has been given, and there is no need to repeat it here. There is no indication that Dr. Molsbergen sought for information about it, though the history of the Department would have been at least as important, for the Report, as the fact that in the 17th and 18th Centuries Ceylon was of greater importance than Java. That history would have shewn that Mr. Anthonisz's work as a pioneer deserved a measure of respect and recognition. To cavil at the work of a man who single-handed evolved order out of disorder, and who created a Department for his successors to enlarge and improve and for experts to criticize,—that seems to us ungenerous.

* * *

"As the births of living creatures at first are ill-shapen, so are all innovations, which are the births of time ; yet notwithstanding, as those that first bring honour into their family are commonly more worthy than most that succeed, so the first precedent (if it be good) is seldom attained by imitation." So wrote Lord Bacon ; and long before him a Roman said that a dwarf standing on the shoulder of a giant might see further than the giant himself : which is obviously true. But it is ever the fate of the pioneer to be ignored—for a time.

* * *

The final recommendation that the Church records should be transferred to the Archives Office is too outrageous to be considered. But the wish that *Wolvendaal* and *Hulftsdorp* should be correctly spelt is one to which all will agree. The matter has been often pressed before. Now that Dr. Molsbergen presses it Government must take notice.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

The Lorenz Family.—In view of the approaching Lorenz Centenary, the following extracts from the Registers of the Dutch Church at Matara, kindly supplied by Mr. G. P. Keuneman, will be read with interest :—

op den 13 Maart 1808 is gedoopt het kind
Anna Sophia Carolina
geb. den 24 Decemb 1807
de Ouders zyn
Johan Frederik Lorensz
en
Maria Elizabeth Andree
de Getuigen zyn
Peter Carolus Roosmalecocq
en
Elias van Schuler
en
Anna Classina Roosmalecocq
en
Sophia Adiriana van Schuler.

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op den September 1813
Zyn in den Huuwelyken
staat bevestigt
Johan Frederick Lorensz
met
Anna Petronella Smith.

Het Kind
geboren den 8 July 1829.
te worden genoemd
Charles Ambrose Lionel.
De Ouders zyn
Johan Frederick Lorensz
en
Anna Petronella Smith
Echte Lieden
De doop getuigens zyn
Robert Charles Roosmalecocq
Jacobus Ambrosius Roosmalecocq.
Maria Theresia de Leeuw.
Weduwe Elsenhaus
Anna Sophia Carolina Lorensz.

Matura, 2 August, 1829.

Sgd, J. D. Palm.

"Vestiges of Dutch Occupation."—The following notes sent by " R.L.B." in connection with his article entitled "Vestiges of Dutch Occupation in the Hambantota District " were received too late to be inserted in their proper places :—

Note in connection with tombstone of Maria Dorothy Altendorf :—Maria Dorothy Ketelhack (widow of Lieutenant Coint) married Lawrence Peter Altendorf on 29 Nov., 1799. He was a son of Johannes Altendorf and Adriana Dorothea Durven and grandson of Marten Lodewyk Altendorf of Berlin and Maria Jansz. (*Tombstones and Monuments, Lewis.*)

Note in connection with the inscribed stone on Tangalle Rest House Verandah :—Amongst the records in Kuda Vihara, a Buddhist Temple near Tangalle, is a petition on ola addressed by the monks of Giribandu Vihara saying that in 1774 the Dissawa had given a sannas defining the land and that they had given permission to the Dutch to erect tents on this land. It tells of how the Dutch soldiers were worrying them and they asked for a grant of land somewhere else. It would thus appear that it was after this petition was sent in that the temple on the mound was shifted and the Fort constructed by the Dutch.—(Notes on Hambantota District, Ayrton—" Ceylon Antiquarian.")

Note in connection with the ancient Buddhist Temple on the Tangalle mound :—This was known as the Giribandu Vihara. The dagoba, according to a sannas dated 24th February, 1774, granted by a Dutch official at Tangalle, is said to have been built in the Saka year 240, i.e., A.D. 318.—(Note from the same reference quoted above.)

NOTES OF EVENTS.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Tuesday, 8th April :—1. A vote of condolence on the death of Mr. H. A. Loos was passed. 2. It was decided that steps be taken to instal more electric fans in the Union Hall.

Tuesday, 7th May :—1. Mr. Basil Drieberg was appointed Secretary of the Entertainment Committee. 2. Read letter from Mrs. E. G. Gratiaen accepting the post of Secretary, Social Service Committee. 3. The following Sub-Committee was appointed to make arrangements for celebrating the Lorenz Centenary: Mr. E. H. Vanderwall, Dr. R. L Spittel, Col. A. C. B. Jonklaas, and Mr. L. E. Blazé.

4. Resolved that the Secretary, D. B. U. Building Coy., be written to regarding the erection of a wall between the Union compound and the adjoining premises. 5. A Sub-Committee was appointed to draft rules to be observed by the clerk and minor staff.

Tuesday, 4th June :—The following new members were elected subject to their being passed by the Genealogical Committee :—Mr. W. vanLangenberg, Mr. A. R. Wambeek, Mr. C. L. Wambeek, Mr. W. L. Siebel, Mr. M. H. E. Koch, and Miss Z. Weinman. (2) Resolved that the Union do purchase 20 copies of Mr. Anthonisz's book, "The Dutch in Ceylon." (3) Approved rules drafted for Clerk and minor staff. (4) Resolved that a shelter be provided for motor cycles on the south side of the Union building.

Mr. L. E. Blazé, O. B.E. :—We offer our hearty congratulations to Mr. L. E. Blazé on the well-deserved honour which His Majesty the King has been pleased to confer on him. Mr. Blazé counts a very large circle of friends both inside and outside the Community, who rejoice that his great services in the cause of education for well-nigh half a century have received such signal recognition. As a litterateur Mr. Blazé has probably few equals at the present day, and the public as well as the Union have reaped the full benefit of his encyclopaedic knowledge through the medium of lectures and articles. Speaking for ourselves, it is no exaggeration to say that since this Journal was started, there is not a single number that does not bear evidence of his literary skill. He edited the Journal with much acceptance for a number of years, and it is only quite recently

that he took up the burden of editing the last number during the absence of the writer.

At the meeting of the Committee held on 4th June, Mr. E. H. Vanderwall gave eloquent expression to the feelings of satisfaction with which the members had heard of the honour. He said that it was very rarely in this country that honours came in the way of men whose sole claims to distinction lay in the field of literature and in those quiet paths of loyal service which do not meet the gaze of publicity. There were two reasons why they should appreciate the honour done to Mr. Blazé. The first of these was that he was a man of most marked ability. It was encouraging to feel that a man who shrank from public notice in the way that Mr. Blazé had always done had been specially selected for this distinction. The second reason was that Mr. Blazé, as they all knew, had always performed loyal, unstinted, and continuous service for the Union. He felt sure that the honour which had been conferred on Mr. Blazé would meet with the very warm approval of those assembled.

Dr. Prins, who occupied the chair, associated himself with all that Mr. Vanderwall had said. He had known Mr. Blazé for a long time, and it gave him great pleasure to see that a man with so little help or influence had achieved so much.

These remarks were received with acclamation by those present.

Complimentary Dinners: Two members, who have done much useful work for the Union since its inception, were on different occasions entertained to Dinner recently on the eve of their departure for England on furlough. The first of these Dinners, which was to Mr. W. E. V. de Rooy, took place at the Union Hall on 27th March. Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, who presided, referred to the invaluable services rendered to the Union by Mr. de Rooy, especially in the matter of the Union building. The other speakers were Mr. E. H. Vanderwall and Mr. L. E. Blazé. Mr. de Rooy replied suitably.

The other Dinner, which was to Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, took place on 30th May and was of a more informal nature, the venue being the Galle Face Hotel. Mr. R. G. Anthonisz again presided, and proposed the toast of Dr. Leembruggen, who, he said, from the very first moment that he joined the Union, had been

one of its strongest supporters. Dr. Leembruggen replied in a very interesting speech. There were insistent calls for Mr. Vanderwall, who responded in a humourous speech, full of reminiscences. Mr. H. H. Bartholomeusz proposed the toast of the Chair, and Mr. Anthonisz, in responding, thanked Mr. E. A. van der Straaten, Mr. A. C. B. Jonklaas, and Mr. B. Drieberg for having organised the Dinner.

"*The Dutch in Ceylon.*" This book by Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, I.S.O., is now on sale at the principal booksellers'. Copies may also be had at the D.B.U. Hall.

Notice to Subscribers : A new volume of the Journal begins with this number. Will those who have not yet paid their subscriptions kindly remit the amount (Rs. 5) to Mr. J. R. Toussaint, "Muresk," Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya.

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 Honorary Secretary of the Dutch Burgher Union.

Standing Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes.—The attention of members is invited to the need for co-operation in carrying out the object 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. L. E. Blazé, O.B.E., Alfred 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. J. R. Toussaint, "Muresk", Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya, to whom also all remittances on account of the Journal should be made. Dr. L. A. Prins has been made a member of the Board of Management.

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

Remittances.—Remittances, whether of subscriptions due to the Union or contributions for special objects, must be made to the Honorary Treasurer of the Union, Dr. J. R. Blazé, Havelock Town, and not to the Honorary Secretary.

Remittances on the account of the Social Service Fund must be made to Dr. J. R. Blazé, Havelock Town, the Honorary Treasurer 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. Gratiaen, Esq., Secretary of the Company D. B. U. Hall, Reid's Avenue, Colombo.

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