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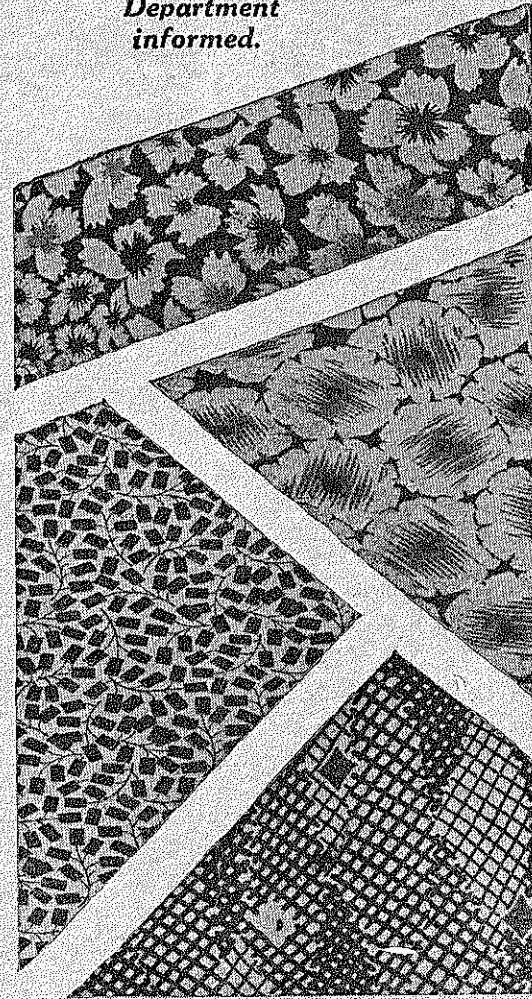
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Vol. XXVI.]

OCTOBER, 1936.

[No. 2.

# 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.*

*Published quarterly. Subscription Rs. 5/- per annum, post free. Single copies, if available, Rs. 1-50 to be had at the D. B. U. Hall.*

— THE —  
**DUTCH IN CEYLON**

**VOL. I.**

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

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

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**THE HONOURABLE FREDERIC NORTH,  
GOVERNOR OF CEYLON.**

The Norths are an old English family with a remarkable record in English history. The first of the family to be ennobled was Edward North, a prominent lawyer, who in 1554 was created Baron North of Kirtling in Cambridgeshire. His second son (the first son succeeded to the title) was Sir Thomas North, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth three years after the Spanish Armada, and who is famous in English literature by his translation of Plutarch's *Lives*. It was this translation which Shakespeare used so freely in writing his Roman plays. The fourth Baron, Dudley, had fourteen children, of whom the third, Francis, rose to great eminence as a lawyer and as a judge, and was created Baron Guilford in 1688. His younger brothers were also distinguished. Dudley was a Turkey merchant and lived for a time in Constantinople. He was also a Sheriff of London, Member of Parliament, and a noted writer on Economics; he too was knighted. John was Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. The youngest brother, Roger, was a highly successful lawyer, but when William of Orange became King of England in 1689, he refused to take the oath of allegiance, and retired to his estate in Norfolk where he wrote the lives of the Norths. One of his descendants was Marianne North, a well-known painter of flowers who died so recently as 1890.

The barony of Guilford was raised to an earldom in 1752, and the second Earl of Guilford, who was also the eighth Lord North, was the famous Prime Minister of George III from 1770 to 1782. He was the Lord North who is, rightly or wrongly, held



responsible for the American War of Independence in which the American colonies broke away from the mother-country and created the United States of America. He succeeded to the Earldom of Guilford in 1790 and died two years later. Two of his sons were successively Earls of Guilford, and neither of them left sons of their own. Thus it happened that the Prime Minister's youngest son, Frederic, became fifth Earl of Guilford. That was in 1817, but before that Frederic North came to Ceylon as Governor, in 1798.

It was from a family of such distinction that the subject of our sketch came, as the first Civil Governor of Ceylon under British rule. He was young in years at the time, but even as a boy he would have had intimate knowledge of the social and political activities of those troublous times, and his father's high position would have brought him into association with such men as Burke, Fox, and the younger Pitt. The twenty years before his arrival in Ceylon were years of great events. The American Colonies had become an independent republic; the Revolution had entered upon its stormy career in France; the military genius of Napoleon had brought him into a position of authority, with Nelson defying him on the sea; Warren Hastings was establishing British supremacy in India; and William Pitt the younger had begun his brilliant administration as Prime Minister, "the pilot that weathered the storm" which raged more fiercely against Britain than against her Allies.

Other great names and great movements made those twenty years a period of special importance. The Age of Reason did not come to an end with the death of David Hume in 1776, or when Voltaire and Rousseau died in 1778, for Tom Paine carried on their work in France. On the side of religion, John Wesley was now an old man (he was born in 1703), but active to the end in his efforts to consolidate and extend the remarkable work he had begun at a time when religious experience was all but dead. John Howard laboured during these years for the reform of prisons and prison life, while William Wilberforce and Thomas Clarkson championed the cause of slaves. The names of Samuel Johnson, Goldsmith, Swift, Cowper, and Gibbon give that period of English literature a special significance. Oddly enough, in spite of wars and rebellions, the trade of Britain all those years outstripped its rivals both in extent and in value.

Frederic North was educated at Eton and Christ Church. The Prime Minister, his father, was also an Oxford man, though the Norths of earlier years were of Cambridge University. It was doubtless at Oxford that our Governor's classical studies led him to a lifelong interest in Greece and the Greek language. This interest was a passion with him. He was known as a "Philhellene", and a biographical sketch of him is included in the series, "Some English Philhellenes", issued by the Anglo-Hellenic League in 1919. For a year he actually lived in Ithaca as a Greek, and he was received into the Orthodox Church in 1791. "In addition to his knowledge of the classical languages", quotes Mr. J. P. Lewis, "he conversed with great skill, ease, and elegance in French, German, Spanish, Italian, and modern Greek, and read the Slavonic idioms". Socially, he was an acknowledged success, Sir Gilbert Elliott, who met him in 1788, described him as "the invalid who is the only pleasant son of the family". The Queen of the Two Sicilies wrote to Lady Hamilton: "I find Mr. North very amiable and agreeable in society. I like Mr. North in the evening for social amenities and chat". Paoli, the Corsican patriot, said of him: "he is easy of access—loves justice and the King's honour".

Corsica was held by the British from June 1794 to August 1796 during the war against France, when the genius of the young Corsican Officer of artillery, Napoleon, was leading France to victory in Europe. North was at Civita Vecchia, on the west coast of Italy, in August 1795, and on the 11th of the month he sailed to Corsica to be Secretary to the British viceroy, Sir Gilbert Elliott. When the island was restored to the French in the next year, North left it, taking with him one of the assistants in his office, Antony Bertolacci, a young Corsican, whom he afterwards brought over to Ceylon as "Secretary for French correspondence".

North was formally appointed Governor of Ceylon by a Commission dated 15th April 1798, but he left England much earlier, on the 1st February 1798, arriving at Bombay on the 4th June. Here he was delayed till his Commission was received from England, and during the interval he took the opportunity of visiting the Elephanta caves near Bombay. It was not till the 1st October that he was able to leave Bombay for Colombo,

where he arrived on the 12th October. He was our first Civil Governor under the British, succeeding the Military Governors who administered the Government from the 16th February 1796; and he was only thirty-two years old when this responsible duty was entrusted to him.

On the voyage out from England to Bombay he was apparently accompanied by Hugh Cleghorn, who had been appointed Secretary (what we should now call Chief Secretary) to the Ceylon Government, and to whose compact, two years earlier, with Count de Meuron the easy conquest of Ceylon was due. At Bombay, North sent Cleghorn to Madras to collect information about the methods employed by the Madras Government in the administration of affairs in Ceylon, and when North arrived in Ceylon Cleghorn supplied him with an exhaustive report.

It must be remembered that Ceylon was still under the control of the British East India Company in Madras, by whom, and at whose cost, the expedition of 1796 was undertaken against the Dutch in Ceylon; it was not governed directly by the Crown. In its haste to compensate itself as speedily as possible for the expense incurred, the Madras Government had badly mismanaged Ceylon affairs, and steps were being taken to bring Ceylon under the direct control of the Crown. Such proceedings were not likely to please the Madras officials, with many of whom Cleghorn had long been intimate. Lord Hobart, the Governor of Madras, was a close friend, and so was Colonel Steuart, commander of the troops when Ceylon was taken. The "Madras faction" were at bitter war with Governor North, and Cleghorn, owing to his personal friendship with them, came under suspicion. The editor of Cleghorn's Diary accuses North of being "vain, irascible, uncertain, suspicious". If that were so, one can understand his new dislike of Cleghorn. To a suspicious and self-centred man, every action, however innocent, of even a suspected friend, is translated into an offence. Cleghorn may have been loyal to his chief, yet reserving his right to personal intercourse with his friends of the opposition, and his right to freedom of action within the limits of official loyalty. On the other hand, North charged him with having written "reams of paper to Dundas" against North, to have "publicly

abused the Governor, and generally to have behaved like a 'madman'." The Governor's antipathy increased with his suspicions and probably with Cleghorn's conduct, and in December 1799 he suspended Cleghorn from Office. In January 1800 Cleghorn resigned, and on the 3rd February sailed for England. "I can now breathe", wrote North; and again: "Heaven be praised, the *Preston* with Cleghorn has weighed anchor from this place".

Though North found the Island "in most perfect tranquillity" on his arrival in 1798 there were elements of unrest which were soon to bring trouble. The Kandyan Kingdom, larger in extent than the maritime possessions of the British, and shut out from them by pathless jungles and thickly-wooded mountains, had factions and troubles of its own; and war with the British was not far distant. In British territory, besides the prospect of transfer from the Madras Company to the Crown, there was the ever-present possibility that the Island would be restored to the Dutch when the War between Britain and France was brought to an end.

Colombo was naturally the centre of British interests and activities. Cordiner, who had access to all official records, and has been proved trustworthy in these matters, estimates the population of Colombo at over 50,000. Roughly, the English lived in the Fort, the Dutch and Portuguese in the Pettah, and the Sinhalese in the suburbs. "The immense Colony of Europeans which Mr. North found at Columbo" consisted of about 120 British and 300 other Europeans of both sexes, but the two classes were apparently not on familiar terms. "The Dutch inhabitants in Ceylon are about nine hundred in number, and, excepting a few families are reduced to circumstances of great indigence: but by rigid and meritorious economy, and some of the lesser labours of industry, they maintain an appearance, in the eyes of the world, sometimes affluent and gay, always decent and respectable". Cordiner mentions also some 5,000 Portuguese, "completely degenerated", to whom, he oddly alleges, the Dutch gave "all the privileges of citizens, under the denomination of burghers". Here we come upon one of those nice derangement of epitaphs into which the writers of that period were liable to lapse.

The military forces consisted usually of a British regiment, a regiment of Sepoys or Malays, a company of artillery, with gun lascars, and a small corps of native pioneers. A regiment of 700 Kaffirs had been recently added. It is worth noting that the 51st Regiment, which was stationed in Ceylon 1800-07, and which took part in the Kandyan war, was known as North's regiment.

The annual revenue of the Island, including the average gain from pearl fisheries, was about £226,600, while the expenditure was over £330,000. Though this revenue was "much greater now than under the Dutch administration", it was clearly insufficient for the expenses incurred. Coffee is included among the exports from Ceylon, other exports being cinnamon, arcanuts, cardamons, pepper, coir, and timber.

Till 1802, when a Supreme Court of Judicature was established with Sir Edmund Carrington as its first Chief, North was practically Chief Justice as well as Governor. He presided in the Supreme Court in Colombo, and held similar courts in other parts of the Island. There were subordinate courts in Colombo: the Provincial Court, "held in the environs", where the disputes were mainly about land; the court of Justices of the Peace, held in the Fort; and the court of the Sitting Magistrate, held in the Pettah. Over all these there was a High Court of Appeal. The courts were crowded daily, and suitors were frequently satisfied even when their suits were dismissed as frivolous.

Such, in rough outline, was the Ceylon to which North came in 1798. He brought out with him several young men, one of whom was Anthony Bertolacci the Corsican, who has been already mentioned. Another was William Boyd, who was North's Private Secretary, and who acted as Secretary to the Government when Cleghorn was suspended. A third was Joseph Joinville, or Jonville, whose knowledge in regard to the cultivation of plants as a source of revenue led to his appointment as Superintendent of Cinnamon Plantations. A fourth was George Lusignan, one of "three boys of 13" brought out by North. Lusignan was Agent of Revenue at the age of eighteen, and his early indiscretions nearly ended in his dismissal by Sir Thomas Maitland, North's successor as Governor. There were others,† and to those to whom North shewed favour must be added the Rev. James Cordiner whom he met at Madras in April 1799, when on a visit to that settlement.

† See Mr. J. R. Toussaint's "Annals of the Ceylon Civil Service", where full particulars are given.

Cordiner gives us a glimpse of the discordant relations between the two Governments. "Ceylon is spoken of at Madras with great disrespect, looked down upon as a very inferior field of employment, and represented to strangers in the most unfavourable light. Ever since it was withdrawn by his Majesty from under the control of the East India Company, their servants have beheld it with jealous eyes. A native of Madras, who visited Columbo in a literary capacity, and was styled by Mr. North his poet-laureat, said, there were three things for which Ceylon was remarkable—poverty, perjury, and adultery. Among the various names by which it was designated, he said, on account of the quantity of copper coin which is used in it, it might be called the copper island". And this from Madras!

North returned to Colombo from Madras on the 11th September 1799, and ten days later gave Cordiner, whom he had appointed Principal of the schools in the Island, instructions to open out three schools in Colombo, and these were at once established. Education was a matter in which North took a special interest, and, as will be seen later, a continued interest. He revived as far as he could the system established by the Dutch, which the military governors had neglected until it ceased to exist. Like the Dutch he required that religion and education should go together. In a bold Proclamation dated 1st December 1799 he declared:—"We.....do inform all native headmen, schoolmasters, and inhabitants within the jurisdiction of Columbo, that it is our earnest desire that the Christian religion should be continued and propagated as much as possible, and therefore do order all the afore-mentioned persons to assist, every one in their offices and situations, in order that the Christian religion, which has been planted with so much labour on this island, may be cultivated, to the glory of God, and for the salvation of immortal souls. The schoolmasters are most seriously ordered to fulfil their duties, the native headmen to afford the necessary assistance to the schoolmasters, and the inhabitants to send their children to school, to the glory of our most beloved Saviour, and to spread forth his kingdom".

Those virtuous critics who are continually girding at the Dutch for their alleged use of compulsion in making Christians ought not to lose sight of this Proclamation by a British Governor.

On the 21st June 1800 North set out on a long tour of Ceylon, returning to Colombo on the 4th January 1801. A detailed

account of this tour is given in Cordiner's "Description". The Governor had a number of officials with him, and an escort of sixty men of the Malay regiment, with twenty pioneers. "The party was accompanied by one hundred and sixty palanquin bearers, four hundred coolies, or persons for carrying baggage, two elephants, six horses, and fifty lascars taking charge of four large tents. Unquestionably, "our style of travelling was that of a moving camp". Temporary bungalows, well furnished and decorated, were put up to accommodate the party when accommodation was not available at resthouses. The whole road from Colombo to Galle was lined on each side with a "curtain" of coconut leaves hung on strings. From Colombo to Moratuwa, by river to Panadura, then to Kalutara and to Bentota, where oysters were had "of the same form as those which are common in England". Ambalangoda, Hikkaduwa, and then Galle. Here a levee, divine service the next day, and four days of a Supreme Court sessions. The prevalence of elephantiasis, or the Cochin leg, is noted, also the difference in taste as regards houses between the Hollanders and the English: the former build on low ground near a stagnant pool, the latter "rear their villas on the summits of cleared eminences, where refreshing gales allay the fervour of the torrid zone, and the eyes are delighted with the rich prospects and perpetual verdure which adorn this delicious Island".

Near Weligama, a road branching off to the right led to the Buddhist Temple of Agrabuddhaganni; and not far from it was the statue of Crusta or Coutta Rajah, whom we know as Kusta Raja. Little is said of Matara, but a good deal about Dondra and its temples, and more about Adam's Brecht or Berg. Returning to Matara it is discovered that "the art of husbandry begins to revive in these territories", as the Dutch discouraged the cultivation of rice in Ceylon to favour the sale of Batavian rice. An elephant hunt near Tangalla provided an agreeable sensation till "on the 30th of August, 1800, aided by the light of the moon, and accompanied by a party of eight gentlemen", His Excellency embarked at Tangalla to go on to Batticaloa by sea. On the 19th September the party were at Trincomalie. "But notwithstanding the advantages attached to its local situation, Trincomalie has been treated with more marked neglect than any other of the Dutch settlements in Ceylon. The soil is naturally arid, the air sometimes noxious, and the colonists from Holland neither studied to increase the

fertility of the one nor the salubrity of the other. The jealous policy of their government declined the visits of strangers, and kept the country in its original barrenness, that the convenience of the harbour, obscured by the appearance of an ungrateful climate, might be less apt to attract the attention of a rival power." Governor North was so pleased with the air and scenery of Trincomalie that he "termed his villa there the Montpelier of India".

At the resthouse of Couchavelly the news came of an unsuccessful attempt on the life of King George III. His Majesty's health was drunk "with convivial honours, and Mr. Farrell, a singer of very superior excellence, favoured us with 'God save the King', including the new lines added on the occasion by Mr. Sheridan. All present joined in the chorus."

The Vanni was next visited, Mantota, Aripu, Mannar, and at length Jaffna, where Colonel Barbut welcomed them. Here the Governor paid a visit of ceremony to the Prince Muttuswamy, who had escaped from Kandy on the death of the reigning King. But an English expedition to Egypt was being fitted out, and the Governor went back to Trincomalie on this business. Thence he went by sea to Galle, and from Galle by land to Colombo where he arrived on the 4th January 1801.

Here may fitly be added the whole-hearted tribute to North's character and attainments which Cordiner pays his patron:

"The tour was extremely pleasant, and full of variety; and every scene which presented itself derived a superior embellishment from the society of our beloved Governor. We were often a family of thirteen persons, and all revered him as a father. Indeed, I believe, it is impossible anywhere to meet with a more delightful or a more instructive companion: in him, the most perfect classical education is adorned with a great natural taste, and elegance of expression. The longer and the more intimately he is known, he appears the more amiable, and displays the greater erudition. His presence infuses gladness into our hearts, and brightens every countenance around him; even when he is absent from us only for a day, clouds seem to obscure the spot where we are stationed, and we feel a want in every innocent enjoyment. In no character were ever useful and endearing qualities more happily blended; in no mind was ever lodged a richer fund of intellectual treasure, or a happier

manner of rendering it entertaining to others. In acquiring a knowledge of languages, he possesses a most uncommon facility: French, Italian, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, Persian, Latin, ancient and modern Greek, he speaks with the same fluency as his native tongue. It has long been his delight to tread on classic ground: few travellers can boast of his industry or perseverance. He has enjoyed the luxury of reading Virgil in Italy, Don Quixote in Spain, and Homer in the island of Ithaca. In the perusal of books, he has a wonderful quickness of perception; he can read volumes in a day, which many persons could not in a week, and, at the same time, he can give a perfect account of their contents. What has been said of the father may, with equal justice, be said of the son, that 'it does not fall to the lot of many in a century to possess the abilities and good dispositions of a NORTH'. Such a man appears but seldom, and his value is justly appreciated by those whom he governs. He is a signal blessing to Ceylon, and were he to rule for ever, the inhabitants would have great cause to rejoice".

The uncertainty about the future government of Ceylon was now about to end. It was not likely that the Island would be restored to the Dutch, and by October 1801 it was understood that so far as Madras was concerned "Ceylon was to become entirely a king's government, and that the servants of the East India Company doing duty here were to be removed to their former stations in the Peninsula." Three months later, in January 1802, the preliminaries of peace between Britain and France were agreed upon, and on the 20th of that month North was installed by a new Charter as Governor of Ceylon, entirely independent of the East India Company. By the peace of Amiens in March 1802 Ceylon was "ceded to His Britannic Majesty in perpetual sovereignty."

The Governor was already involved in trouble with the Kandians who continued to maintain their independence in the hill country. Three months before North's arrival in Ceylon, the reigning King of Kandy died, and his First Adigar, Pilame Talauwa, induced the Kandyan Chiefs to accept as their new King, Kannesami, a nephew of one of the late King's wives. Kannesami took the title of Sri Vikrama Raja Sinha, but he was intended to be only a puppet king till Pilame Talauwa found a way to raise himself to the throne. The rightful heir

was Muttusami, the brother of the Queen, who escaped to Colombo, whence he was sent to Jaffna to the care of Colonel Barbut.

It is needless to recount here the laboured negotiations between North and Pilame Talauwa which were destined to end in open rupture. Pilame Talauwa is described by Cordiner as ambitious and utterly unscrupulous, and in this estimate of his character other writers of the period agree. Ambition is not, however, an unpardonable offence, and the desire to keep one's country independent of foreign rule would everywhere be regarded as at least natural and praiseworthy. And when a small and comparatively weak nation struggles for its independence against a strong rival, "oriental diplomacy" and unscrupulous methods, however we may denounce them as wicked, are only to be expected.

North, again, has been blamed for weakness and shortsightedness. Had he lived in later times he might doubtless have acted with more firmness and wisdom. But practically, the Kandyan country was still an unknown country in North's time, and the Kandyan people were little understood, and not held in much regard by the European invader. Both parties misjudged the character, strength, and resources of each other.

Not till 1803 did the continual intrigues and conferences end in the proclamation of war and the despatch of an expedition to Kandy. On the evening of the 31st January 1803 General Macdowall set out from Colombo, with two companies of artillery and gun lascars, two companies of the 19th regiment, 625 men of the 51st regiment, 1000 native infantry, a company of Malays, and a small corps of pioneers. "Colombo was almost quite drained of troops", and a corps of militia was organized for its defence. On the 20th February he was joined near Kandy by Colonel Barbut who had marched with a detachment from Trincomalee, and on the morning of the 21st the British forces entered the highland capital to find it deserted and partially in flames. The king and his ministers had fled to Hanguranketa, two days march from Kandy. Prince Muttusami was brought over and proclaimed king. A conference held on the 28th March resulted in an agreement, and fighting was to cease, and on the 1st April Macdowall left Kandy, Barbut remaining with a small force. Anxious to secure peace, North met Pilame Talauwa at Dambadeniya on the 3rd May to confirm the treaty, and narrowly escaped being carried off as a prisoner; the unexpected appearance of Barbut saved him.

The remainder of the story is well known: Barbut's death and Major Davie's succession to the command in Kandy; the surrender of Muttusami; the massacre on the river bank at Watapuluwa; Davie's long imprisonment and death. North has been blamed for making no effort to secure Davie's release, and he has been charged with making Davie a scapegoat for his own mistakes. There is something to be said on both sides of this question, but it has to be remembered that these things happened at the very beginning of the British occupation of Ceylon.

North left Ceylon in 1805 after a term of seven years. For the next eight years he lived in Italy and Greece, and after two years' residence in England he was sent by the British Government on a mission to the Ionian Islands, where soon after Sir Thomas Maitland, his successor in Ceylon, was appointed High Commissioner. Here he established a College and a system of schools with the prospect of an University. The University scheme was sanctioned in 1821, but year after year side-tracked by Maitland. On the 29th May 1824, after Maitland's death, the University was inaugurated and Lord Guilford, as North had now become, installed as Chancellor. We can understand that here he was in his element and that the ceremonies were after his own heart. Well might he give himself away! "A queer fish", wrote Sir Charles Napier, "but very pleasant... He goes about dressed up like Plato with a gold band round his mad pate, and flowing drapery of a purple hue. His student's dress is very pretty, and said to be taken from ancient statues."

But the University did not succeed; it became more Italian than Greek. North left Corfu on the 16th June 1827. "On the stroke of twelve he appeared at the door of his apartments and asked the archbedell for the University mace. It was presented to him, and he kissed the silver-gilt owl of Pallas that surmounted the ebony staff. At the appointed hour he quitted Corfu amid the blessings of the people. Little did they think that he would never more set foot on its soil."

North died, unmarried, in London on the 14th October 1827. Mr. Frewen Lord's grievance against him was that though North was certainly a gentleman, he was "a gentleman of a tremulous and exacting conscience", even a "domineering conscience". That is something to the good, though perhaps not altogether to the good, for conscience is often a strange taskmaster. One thing at least may be said of him, that he did his best in times of peculiar stress and uncertainty.

L. E. B.

(My indebtedness to the researches of Mr. J. P. Lewis and Mr. L. J. B. Turner is gratefully acknowledged.)

## THE REV. JAMES CORDINER.

Of all the writers on Ceylon since the British occupation, no one is quoted more frequently than the Rev. James Cordiner, to whom Mr. L. J. B. Turner assigns the first place among the unofficial authorities dealing with the early British period. Yet, in spite of his pre-eminence, very little has hitherto been known of his life beyond what can be gleaned from the pages of his "Description of Ceylon" and the scattered references to him in Governor North's despatches and other early records. A later book written by him, however, entitled "A Voyage to India", which has only recently been available, throws a good deal of light on what has hitherto been obscure, and it is now possible to give a fairly connected sketch of the life of this distinguished historian.

Cordiner was the son of an Episcopalian Minister of the Church of Scotland at Banff, Scotland, where he was born and received his early education. He then proceeded to King's College, Aberdeen, and made some mark there as a Greek scholar. At the time of his appointment to the Military Male Orphan Asylum at Madras, Cordiner had not been called to Holy Orders. On the 30th September, 1797, at the age of 22, he took up his examination, at which he "wrote a theme in Latin, read thirteen verses of the Greek New Testament, *ad aperturam libri*, and translated a passage of *Grotius de Veritate*". The very next day he was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Carlisle, and on the 2nd October he set out on his long voyage which was to culminate in his appointment to Ceylon as Chaplain of the Garrison of Colombo and Principal of all the Schools in the Island.

The vessel in which Cordiner sailed was the *Anna* of Bombay, commanded by Captain John Horn. The fleet of which she formed a part consisted of three other country ships, the *Surat Castle*, *Carron*, and *Anna of Bengal*, besides the *Belvedere*, the *Barwel* bound for Botany Bay, and a small schooner called the *Harbinger*, all under convoy of the *Niger* frigate. The four country ships had come from China with tea, and they now carried cargoes for Bombay.

The first port of call was Madeira. Cordiner describes the voyage to this place as extremely pleasant, the weather being fine and the breezes favourable, with only a very few interruptions of calms and contrary winds. At Madeira the passengers were



received with much friendliness by the residents of that lonely outpost, and Cordiner goes into raptures over the treatment accorded to them. "The hospitality with which we were received in this delicious island equals the warmest urbanity which imagination can conceive; and the grateful sensations which I experienced during a fortnight's residence among the English merchants there have not been effaced after living six years within the sultry tropicks and many winters on the borders of the frozen zone". Dinners and excursions were the order of the day, but in spite of these distractions Cordiner was not unmindful of the obligations of his sacred office, for he held divine service on one Sunday, which was attended by all the inhabitants and passengers on the island. Even at this early period Cordiner displayed a keen appreciation of feminine charms, and this was to stand him in good stead in after years in describing the Dutch ladies of Ceylon, for he mentions that he visited the convent of Santa Clara, but found none of the nuns "either young or beautiful".

The voyage from Madeira to the Cape of Good Hope was accomplished without incident. At Cape Town the passengers found lodgings in the houses of the Dutch families. Cordiner remarks that "many of the ladies are genteel, well-bred, and even beautiful. Some of their female slaves are likewise extremely handsome, and have complexions similar to the brunettes of England: they dress in all respects like their mistresses, who treat them in private as companions"

After a week at the Cape, Cordiner set sail for Bombay. This stage of the journey was marked by some excitement in consequence of the discovery of a plot to kill the captain and officers and carry the ship to Mauritius. The originator of the plot was the boatswain, who was put in irons until his arrival at Bombay, where he was tried but acquitted for want of sufficient evidence. "After this discovery" says Cordiner, "the captain requested me to perform divine service to the ship's company every Sunday, which was regularly done unless when prevented by the weather". The tedium of the long voyage was relieved by catching fish which were seen in large numbers. Among the varieties caught and used for food were the dolphin and the bonito, and Cordiner records that they even consumed a young shark, which they found "extremely palatable, perfectly tender, and a very agreeable addition to our rice at breakfast".

At long last, on 19th May, the tedious voyage, which had occupied more than seven months, was brought to a close by the arrival of the vessel at Bombay. We learn something of the life of the times from Cordiner's statement that among the first inquiries made of the captain of the ship was how many chests of claret he had on board! On landing Cordiner called on Mr. Alexander Adamson, a senior merchant of the East India Company, to whom he had brought a letter of introduction, and was invited by him to be his guest, or as Cordiner expresses it in the language of the day, "to take a cot in his house". Cordiner next visited Lieutenant-General James Stuart, Commander of the Forces at Bombay, and was received "with the most gratifying condescension and affability". He spent twelve days at Bombay, where he found the style of living quite new to him. He hired a palanquin and a set of bearers, a *massaljee* or servant to carry an umbrella to keep off the sun during the day and a lantern at night, and a servant to attend him within doors. At night he slept in a cot, with green gauze curtains, to keep out the mosquitoes. He makes special mention of the fish called *bumbelo* with which we are familiar under the name of *bombelies*. He describes it as something of the nature of a sand eel, but softer and of a superior flavour. "When fried, in its fresh state, it is of the consistence of a strong jelly, and more delicious than a whiting: it is however most commonly eaten after being dried, in which state a great quantity of these fishes is exported; they afford an excellent seasoning to boiled rice, which always forms a dish at breakfast, and receives from them a most agreeable relish. The sailors, by way of joke, call them *Bombay Ducks*".

On the 30th May, 1798, Cordiner left Bombay on board the *Cornwallis* bound for Madras, which place he reached on the 12th June. He immediately repaired to the scene of his future labours, the Military Male Orphan Asylum, where he was hospitably received by the Revd. Mr. R. H. Kerr, the Superintendent, and one of the chaplains of the residency. This Orphan Asylum was first established in 1789 by private subscription, chiefly from the officers of the Army, and was thereafter supported by the profits of a public lottery. The first Superintendent was the Revd. Dr. Andrew Bell, who, on his return to England in 1797, was empowered by the Directors to send out a young man, duly qualified, as a school-master. This was the

post which Cordiner had come out to fill, on a salary of £200 per annum. General Dirom, a friend of Dr. Bell's, had recommended Cordiner for this appointment, and previous to his departure from England, Cordiner had spent two months with Dr. Bell, in order to acquaint himself with his system of tuition.

Cordiner took charge of the institution on 18th June, 1798, and he gives us a very interesting description of the pupils, their manner of living, and the scheme of instruction. The number of pupils was 280, the majority being the orphans of non-commissioned officers and soldiers, principally by native women, who were boarded and educated free. The rest were natural children of officers, who paid three pagodas a month. The majority of the children were very dark in colour. The same apartment served as school-room, dining-room and bedroom. The children learnt their lessons at the same tables at which they dined and many of them slept on them, the others lying on straw mats on the floor. They ate with their fingers out of earthen vessels called *mollies*, which the cook filled from a pot which he carried round the table in his hand.

The system of instruction was a novel one, the tuition being conducted entirely by the boys themselves. The school was divided into classes, and the boys were paired off into tutors and pupils. Supposing a class consisted of ten boys, all nearly of the same age, the best boy in the class received charge of the worst, the next best got charge of the next worst, and so on. In this manner the five more attentive boys became tutors to the five boys less inclined to learn, and the class was composed of an equal number of tutors and pupils. Every class had a teacher who constantly inspected the tutors and pupils, kept them busy, and heard them say their lessons as soon as prepared, which was generally once every half hour. Dr. Bell claimed for the system that it "gives, as it were, to the master, the hundred hands of Briareus, the hundred eyes of Argus, and the wings of Mercury".

Cordiner's remarks on the state of society in Madras in those early days are worth reproducing. He says that many of the British residents affected great splendour in their mode of living, and moved in a very different sphere from what they had been

accustomed to in their own country. The Civil Servants of the East India Company were looked upon as the nobility of India. They assumed an air of much consequence, often treated the rest of their countrymen with supercilious arrogance, and looked upon the military class with disdain. In strong contrast to this attitude, the private merchants were more modest in their deportment, although fully sensible of their independence. Cordiner has a good word for the lawyers, who "being in general the best educated part of the community, form a very social and pleasant circle". The military body was much neglected, and retaliated by showing "a reciprocal contempt for those who accounted themselves so much their superiors". The "settlement" did not come up to Cordiner's expectations in regard to hospitality to the stranger, but he himself had no ground for complaint, as he was received with much civility by several gentlemen on whom he had no special claims, while those to whom he brought letters of introduction treated him with every possible attention.

Cordiner had been at the Male Orphan Asylum for about ten months when the Hon'ble Frederic North, Governor of Ceylon, visited Madras in April, 1799, and Cordiner had the honour of being introduced to him by General Brathwaite, Commander-in-Chief. Some time before this, Cordiner had been appointed Chaplain to His Majesty's 80th Regiment then stationed at Trincomalee, but had not assumed duties. About the time of Governor North's arrival in Madras, Mr. Rosenhagen, the Chaplain to the Garrison at Colombo, had died and the vacancy had not been filled. North had pressed for an early appointment and expected that a clergyman would be sent from England, but pending his arrival he offered Cordiner the acting appointment, promising to indemnify him for his trouble. General Brathwaite was anxious that Cordiner should be appointed as soon as possible as an acting chaplain in His Majesty's Service, as by a recent regulation, chaplains after a number of years' residence at a foreign station, were entitled to a pension for life. He therefore induced Cordiner to accept Mr. North's offer, and procured for him the appointment of chaplain to His Majesty's 51st Regiment, which was then under orders to embark for Colombo.

On 23rd April, 1799, Cordiner embarked on board the *Cornwallis* bound for Ceylon, with eight companies of His Majesty's 51st Regiment, but the vessel did not sail until two days later.

For fourteen days they had to contend against unfavourable breezes, and on the 8th May they very unexpectedly made Ceylon, and were saved from being dashed to pieces in the surf by the providential appearance of a light on the shore. On 11th May they passed the fort of Batticaloa, which they were able to see clearly, and on the 14th they fell in with the *Fletcher* bound for Trincomalee. As the captain of the vessel in which Cordiner was sailing had determined to return to Madras in consequence of the difficulty of calling at Galle owing to the severity of the South-West Monsoon, Cordiner applied for and was given a passage in the *Fletcher*, so that he might join the 80th Regiment at Trincomalee. On arrival here he was introduced to Colonel Ramsay of that Regiment, and took up his quarters in a little bungalow in the garden of Town-Major Walsh. He was made a member of the mess, and was soon on friendly terms with the officers, especially Dr. Christie, the surgeon, whom he describes as an amiable man and an eminent physician, who afterwards became physician-extraordinary to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

When Cordiner had been a short time at Trincomalee, Mr. Anthony Bertolacci, Deputy Muster-master and Postmaster General, arrived there, and on completion of his work was making arrangements to return to Colombo overland. Cordiner was anxious to get to Colombo as soon as possible in order to take up his appointment as chaplain to His Majesty's 51st Regiment, so he decided to join forces with Mr. Bertolacci. He purchased a palanquin and hired twelve bearers and two coolies, Mr. Bertolacci doing the same. They started on 3rd June and reached Jaffna on the 13th, where they were hospitably entertained by Colonel Barbut. Continuing their journey they reached Mannar on the 17th and had breakfast with the Commandant, the Hon. George Turnour, who, Cordiner says, "was living very comfortably, in the family way, with a lively French wife, her mother, and a cluster of children". On 20th June they crossed over from the mainland to Calpentyne, where they were kindly received by Captain and Mrs. Driberg, a Dutch couple, "who had a large family of beautiful children". After breakfast the next morning they returned to the mainland, and on the 23rd they entered the fort of Chilaw, and were the guests of the Commandant, Mr. Keuneman. The following day they reached Negombo, where they met Mr. Cleghorn, Secretary to the Government, to whom Cordiner delivered some

letters of introduction which he had brought from Madras. After dining with Major Wilson, the Commandant, they set out for Colombo, and on 25th May at 10 a.m. they entered the fort and were the guests of Colonel Champagne, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Forces. Here, Cordiner says, "we *tiffed* at one o'clock, at a table which was open to the Garrison, and dined at half-past six, and the General requested me to become a member of his family during the absence of Governor North."

On the morning after his arrival in Colombo, Cordiner accompanied Captain Carr on horseback through the suburbs. The next day Lieutenant Kerr, the judge-advocate, drove him out in his curricule, and they had breakfast with Mr. Macdowall, the collector, in his "villa," which was probably in Mutwal. The same day Cordiner *tiffed* with Messrs. Boyd and Bertolacci in Mr. North's house and dined with Mr. Cleghorn. Every day was spent in a similar manner, and Cordiner enjoyed himself to the full. He found the climate "most grateful", and could not have wished it to be cooler. In the middle of the day he employed himself in filling up the drawings which he had made, and in taking notes of his observations, which he afterwards embodied in his "Description of Ceylon". He held his first service on 7th July in the Government House, and continued to do so every Sunday during his residence of five years in the island. On 11th July he ceased to be the guest of Colonel Champagne and went into occupation of a house in the Fort which he had rented from Mrs. Van Sanden, a Dutch widow, at forty-eight rix dollars a month. As shewing the rapid rise in house rent, Cordiner mentions that this house, which before the arrival of the English brought in only twenty rix-dollars, fetched a few years afterwards seventy rix-dollars a month.

Cordiner was very soon afforded an opportunity of attending a social event in Sinhalese high life, the occasion being the wedding of a Mudaliyar. Strange as it may seem, the happy couple were married in a Roman Catholic Church. The festivities included a dinner, or what we should call breakfast, at one o'clock, and a ball and supper at night. At the latter function there was a large attendance of Dutch ladies, and Cordiner does not fail to remark that many of them were "very comely". Only five English ladies were present, and lest he should be thought to be doing them an injustice, Cordiner hastens to add that they were "not of inferior attraction".

On 17th July, 1799, Cordiner was appointed by Major Wauchop to be deputy-chaplain to His Majesty's 19th Regiment of Foot doing duty in Ceylon. A month later Major-General Hay Macdowall arrived in Colombo as Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Ceylon, and two days afterwards he held a levee in Government House, which was attended by all the Dutch and English gentlemen of the place. Cordiner was accompanied by five Dutch clergymen, dressed in their bands, and three Roman Catholic priests, in their black cassocks. In keeping with Sinhalese hospitality, the Maha Mudaliyar entertained the General to a grand breakfast, to which also all the officers of the Garrison were invited. Cordiner notes that "the table was laid out in the English style, in the most sumptuous manner, and in addition to tea and coffee, displayed all the articles which appear at a dinner and a dessert".

Governor North, who had been on duty in Madras since April 1799, returned to Colombo on 11th September, and was received with a salute of guns from the ramparts. The streets were lined with troops from the main gate to the Government House, where His Excellency held a levee, which was attended by "all the gentlemen of the Settlement". Opportunity was taken to introduce to them Mr. Dunkin and Mr. Sutherland, who had accompanied the Governor from Madras, to take up duties in Ceylon as Judge and Registrar, respectively, of the Court of justice.

As soon as Governor North had disposed of the heavy arrears which had accumulated during his long absence, he turned his attention to Cordiner, and on 21st September he delivered his instructions to him as principal of all the schools in the island. He directed the establishment of three schools at Colombo, one for the children of the higher classes of the Sinhalese, one for those of Malabars or Tamils, and a third for those of Europeans. Their course of study was to be spread over six years, and was to consist of reading and writing the different languages spoken in Ceylon; the principles of religion according to the Church of England; arithmetic, agriculture, and ethics, together with a summary of the principles of the civil law as established in Ceylon. The sons of parents professing the religion of the Church of Rome, or any other form of evangelical worship, were to be permitted to attend these schools, and were not to be instructed in religion, except at the request of their parents. It was Governor North's intention,

after the Sinhalese school should have been established ten years, to request the East India Company to order that no Mudaliyar or other native servant of Government should be appointed, who had not gone through this course, and received a certificate of good behaviour from the principal.

North also intended, subject to the approval of the authorities in England, to establish a fourth or higher school for those pupils who had given proof of extraordinary talents and merit in the Sinhalese and Malabar Schools. The course of study proposed was a very ambitious one, and was to include, in the words of Cordiner, "Latin, the poetic Cingalese, ancient Tamul, Pali, Greek, Arabic, Persian, and Moors, Mathematics, Algebra, civil, ecclesiastical, and natural history". Intending pupils were to undergo an examination before the Governor or persons appointed by him for that purpose; and if successful, were to be admitted and maintained entirely at the expense of Government. It was proposed to send every year a sufficient number of them to England, where they would be maintained and educated at the public expense, until they should be judged fit to receive Holy Orders, after which they were to return to Ceylon and take up work as parish priests.

The three lower schools were immediately established, and Cordiner, writing in 1820, states that they "still continue to flourish, more particularly the Cingalese and Malabar Schools, under the charge of Mr. Armour, who continues to improve rapidly in the knowledge of these Eastern languages. The higher school has not yet been formed, probably owing to opposition from the higher powers; but two young men from the Cingalese School are now in England, preparing themselves for the office of the priesthood, which it is to be hoped they will discharge to the great comfort of their countrymen in their native island".

On Sunday, 3rd November, 1799, Cordiner took the morning service in Wolvendaal Church, and one of his native assistants preached in Tamil. On the same night a grand ball and supper were given by the Second Mudaliyar on the occasion of the marriage of his daughter to a young Muhandiram. Cordiner discreetly omits to say whether he was present. This was followed by a ball on 12th November given by the Governor to celebrate the King's birthday which fell on 4th June during His Excellency's absence in India. Upwards of two hundred "genteel" persons partook of supper. Cordiner again pays a tribute to the Dutch ladies. "On



these occasions there was never any deficiency of ladies, for the Dutch gentlemen's wives were always invited, and the number of the softer sex present was sometimes greater than that of the other. Of the innocence and sweetness of their manners I have formerly spoken. Dancing was one of their favourite amusements, and they always acquitted themselves with grace and elegance".

Cordiner had already established friendly relations with the people of the country, and on the last day of the year the schoolmasters and pupils of the various schools under his charge flocked to his house with presents of game, fruit, and cakes. One of the schoolmasters struck out in an original line and brought a young bull, which invaded the sanctity of Cordiner's dining room. As the Dutch houses in the Fort had no conveniences for keeping cattle, Cordiner made a virtue of necessity and presented the bull to the father of one of his servants.

Although Cordiner had been officiating as chaplain to the garrison for some months, there was no official notification of his appointment until January 1800, but this did not affect him adversely, as he was allowed to draw his pay and allowances with retrospective effect. He notes that Mrs. Floyd, the wife of the General of that name, who was on a visit to Ceylon, attended the Governor's levee on 18th May, and observes that she was probably the only lady who paid the Governor that compliment during his residence in the island. We may go further and say that she furnishes the only case of a lady who ever attended a levee in Ceylon. On 20th January, 1800, the Governor gave "a splendid ball and supper" to three hundred guests in honour of Her Majesty's birthday. The news of the surrender of the Dutch fleet in the Texel "added not a little to the cheerfulness of the evening". Cordiner does not say whether any of the Dutch residents were present; and if so, how they received the tidings. Entertainment followed entertainment in quick succession. On 27th January Colonel Torr ns gave a breakfast in his bungalow to upwards of one hundred ladies and gentlemen on the occasion of the review of his battalion, while three days later the Governor gave a public breakfast, under tents, after the review of the Malay corps.

At last the Governor found time to pay some attention to the schools established under his directions. On 8th February, 1800, he visited the Sinhalese, Malabar, and European schools. Although he does not say so, we have no doubt that Cordiner

was present and took a justifiable pride in showing the Governor round. Three weeks later a public service of thanksgiving was held in Wolvendaal Church for the success of the British arms in Europe and Mysore. The service was attended by the Governor, the Commander of the Forces, the British troops, and all the English ladies and gentlemen, together with a large number of Dutch residents. The band of the 19th regiment played the *Te Deum* and several other hymns, in concert with the organ, the effect of which was very striking. Cordiner is again silent as to the part he played, but it is not difficult to surmise that the service was conducted by him.

On 12th March, 1800, Cordiner saw Major-General Hay Macdowall take leave of the Governor before proceeding on his embassy to the Court of Kandy. The following day an event occurred which cast a deep gloom over the small English community in Ceylon. Dr. John Ewart, Physician-General to His Majesty's Troops in India, and Inspector-General of Hospitals in Ceylon, died of fever which he had contracted while on a pleasure party about twenty miles from Colombo. Cordiner states that during his illness, Dr. Ewart, whom North once referred to as "That Prince of Idiots," begged of the Doctors who were attending him to allow him to be put into a cold bath, but never having heard of such a treatment, they refused to comply with his request lest they might be blamed if anything untoward occurred. It is interesting to recall that some years later this same treatment was tried on another distinguished Ceylon official and that he survived the ordeal, though perhaps his recovery may have been due more to his robust constitution than to any virtue in the treatment. Major Thomas Skinner tells us in his autobiography that when stationed at Kurunegala, he was laid low by an attack of "Jungle" fever as malarial fever was known in those days. His doctor bled him until there was scarcely a drop of blood left in his body, and then gave him forty grains of Calomel. In the evening, as the fever was still high, the doctor ordered Skinner to be taken out to the open, laid on a bare couch, and had buckets of cold water thrown over him for about twenty minutes. He was then taken back to bed and slept for several hours. He ultimately recovered, to the no small surprise of the adjutant of his regiment, who did not expect him to survive the drastic treatment he had received.

The story of the officer of the Indian Army who married a Hindu woman whom he had rescued from the funeral pyre of her husband on which she had thrown herself in accordance with the custom of the country is familiar to most of us, but it is not generally known that Cordiner baptised in Ceylon the daughter born to the parents by this marriage. The baptism probably took place in the Wolvendaal Church.

On 7th May, 1800, Cordiner witnessed the return of General Macdowall from his embassy to Kandy, "highly delighted with the rich and romantic country which he had seen". Five days later the first meeting of the Committee appointed to superintend all the charitable establishments in the island took place. The 4th of June, being the King's birthday, was celebrated with all the usual honours, and Cordiner says that "gaiety and feasting continued for sixteen days afterwards". After this gargantuan dissipation, nobody was inclined for any serious business, so on 21st June the Governor set out with a large party to make a tour of the island, which lasted six months. Cordiner tells us that he kept two books on this tour: the one an official report to Government on the state of the schools, the other private memoranda for his own amusement. The former he presented to Governor North, who forwarded it to the authorities in England. The latter formed the basis of a chapter in his "Description of Ceylon."

A cordial reception awaited Cordiner on his arrival in Colombo after his long absence. A subscription ball took place on the day following his return, and this no doubt gave him an opportunity of meeting his friends and recounting his experiences. He attended his first elephant Kraal at Toppuwe near Negombo on 26th February, 1801, and repeated this experience eight months later at the same place. On 22nd June 1801 he became a member of what is believed to be the very first Freemason's Lodge established in Ceylon—the Orange Lodge, organised by the 51st Regiment—and was appointed Chaplain to the Lodge. Two days later he preached to the members before dinner a sermon on brotherly love. He witnessed the arrival on 10th September, 1801, of the first batch of Civil Servants from England, headed by Robert Arbuthnot, who came out as Chief Secretary to the Government.

We are indebted to Cordiner for an account of the very first celebration of St. Andrew's Day in Colombo. On 23rd November, 1801, the Scotch residents of Colombo gave a dinner to the whole

"Settlement" at the Union Arms, which Cordiner describes as "a tavern lately established". At one end of the dining room was hung a transparent painting of St. Andrew, embellished with a border of roses, thistles, and shamrocks; and at the other end a transparency of the Crown and thistle, both done on white silk.

Cordiner also tells us that in the year 1801 a circulating library was established in Colombo for the use of the English residents, the subscription to which was sixteen shillings a month; but the venture was short-lived, and the books were disposed of by lottery. Early in the following year Cordiner saw the second batch of Civil Servants arrive in the island, among them being Sir Edmund Codrington Carrington, Chief Justice, and Henry Peter John Layard, the first of a distinguished family to hold high office in Ceylon.

On 26th January, 1802, news was received of the preliminaries of a general peace having been concluded on 1st October, 1801, and of Ceylon being ceded to His Britannic Majesty in perpetual sovereignty. The occasion was celebrated by the firing of one hundred and one guns from the ramparts. Two days later the Honourable Frederic North was installed as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the British territories in this island by a new charter, rendering him independent of the East India Company. On 22nd June tidings were received that the Treaty of Peace had been signed on 11th March, 1802.

These noteworthy events called for some special recognition in Ceylon, and it was decided to hold a general thanksgiving throughout the island. Wolvendaal Church was selected as the venue of the service in Colombo. A throne was erected for the Governor and members of Council, the music of the organ being supplemented by the band of the 51st Regiment. Cordiner preached the sermon on this occasion, taking his text from Psalm xcii: *It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord.*

To Cordiner is also due the account of the first Maldivian embassy to Ceylon. On 9th December, 1802, the ambassador arrived in a small vessel from the Maldives. The ceremony did not differ very much from that observed at the present day. The ambassador walked in procession through the Fort, attended by a guard of Sepoys, and preceded by eighteen coolies loaded with presents of cowries and dried fish. He was received by the Governor and the usual formalities took place.

We hear very little of Cordiner's activities during the year 1803. On 7th February 1804 he went to Aripo to witness the Pearl Fishery, and took the opportunity of visiting the island of Rameswaram. Two weeks later the Honourable and Reverend T. J. Twisleton, whom Cordiner designates "named Chaplain to Government," and the Revd. W. H. Heywood, whom he designates "Chaplain of Brigade," arrived in the island. This resulted in the termination of Cordiner's services in Ceylon, but he is very reticent on this point. Writing as though labouring under a deep sense of grievance, all he says is:—"In consequence of the arrangements which then took place, it was thought advisable for me to return to Britain, as any appointment which I could have retained would have afforded me nothing but a bare subsistence".

Cordiner left Ceylon on 2nd May 1803. That his departure was sincerely regretted is evident from the following communication addressed to him, which reached him on his arrival at Madras:—

"Reverend Sir,

"When your intention of returning to Europe became known, the concern it occasioned was succeeded by an immediate wish, very generally and warmly expressed, to offer you, on your departure, some token of esteem and regard.

"This impression led to a very numerous and respectable meeting of the Civil and Military Servants of Government present at Colombo, when the resolutions, which we have the honour to inclose, were unanimously agreed to.

"It is gratifying to us to have been appointed to carry into effect a mark of public approbation and attachment so well deserved, and so congenial to our own sentiments and feelings.

"The humane, zealous, and unwearied manner in which you have constantly discharged the functions of your sacred office, would have alone entitled you to our best acknowledgments; but we cannot be insensible how much these duties have derived advantage and effect from the simplicity of manners, the frank sincerity, and the unaffected benevolence of your private character.

"We beg leave to offer you our best wishes for your health and prosperity; and to assure you, that it will give us the utmost satisfaction to hear of your preferment in your own country, in a

profession which you have exercised here with such credit to yourself, and use to the community.

"We have the honour to be, with great regard,

"Reverend Sir,

"Your most faithful humble Servants

Robert Arbuthnot, Chief Sec. to Government.

Charles Baillie, Lt. Col. 51st Regiment.

St. Tolfrey, Judge of the Prov. Court of Columbo.

J. Willson, Town-Major.

Fredk. Hankey, Capt., 19th Foot, and Major of Brigade to King's Troops.

Colombo, 15th May, 1804."

This letter was accompanied by a piece of plate, of the value of two hundred guineas, with the following inscription:—"This urn, and the accompanying plate, were presented to the Reverend James Cordiner, by the Civil and Military Servants of His Majesty in Ceylon, as a mark of their attachment and esteem, and of the deep sense they entertain of the zeal, attention, and humanity with which he performed the duties of his holy profession for upwards of five years; during which time, both by example and precept, he animated them to the practice, and instructed them in the principles, of religion and virtue." Cordiner sent a suitable acknowledgment in which he said that "the handsome urn, with the accompanying plate, shall be carefully preserved and duly honoured; and the memory of the donors' friendship shall be cherished as a treasure of far greater value."

On reaching Madras Cordiner looked up his old friends, and was the guest of George Arbuthnot, whom he had known in Ceylon, for a period of three months. He had a gay time here, being introduced by his host into the first circles and seldom dining two days running in the same house. He left Madras on 16th August, 1804, touched at St. Helena, where he spent some time, and reached England on 8th February, 1805. After attending to official business, he went to see his relations in Peterhead, a watering-place in Scotland, where he prepared for the press his "Description of Ceylon." Early in 1807 he was appointed by the congregation of St. Paul's Chapel in Aberdeen to be one of their ministers. It was here that he wrote his book "A Voyage to India" which he published in 1820. He died in 1836 at the age of sixty-one.

## GENEALOGY OF THE SWAN FAMILY OF CEYLON.

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

Joseph Swan, married :—

- (a) Louisa Anna Gouilliard, baptised 21st April 1793, daughter of Noel August Gouilliard of St. Pol, Artois, Pays de Calais, Surgeon, Luxemburg Regiment, and Anna Burnat of Matara. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. III. page 62).
- (b) In St. Peter's Church, Colombo, 19th July 1822, Arnoldina Frederica Gertruida Eberhardie, daughter of Daniel Herman Eberhardie and Elizabeth Du Port.  
Of the first marriage, he had
  - 1 Elizabeth Jane, born 2nd April 1815, married in St. Paul's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 1st June 1835, Gustaff Andrew Gambs.
  - 2 James, who follows under II.  
Of the second marriage, he had
    - 3 Harriet, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 31st March 1845, Charles Arnoldus Barber, born 12th December 1816, widower of Charlotte Frederica Appelton, and son of Johan Konrath Barber and Maria Magdalena Thuring.
    - 4 Richard Gerard.
    - 5 George William.
    - 6 Frederica, born 18th July 1828, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 15th February 1858, John Neil Keith, born 4th November 1840, son of John Neil Keith and Margarita Wilhelmina Vander Straaten. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. XXIII, page 158).
    - 7 Joseph, who follows under III.
    - 8 Maria Margaret, born 6th July 1833, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 15th April 1850, Thomas William Anthonisz.
    - 9 Charlotte Sophia, born 24th October 1835, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 3rd March 1859, John Wright, born 1818, widower of (1) Anna Matilda Misso, and (2) Jane Frederica Selman, and son of John Wright of Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England, and Anna Elizabeth Palm.
    - 10 Caroline Jane, born 4th September 1837, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 20th June 1861, John William Schumacher.
    - 11 Sophia Jemima, born 3rd June 1840.

## II.

James Swan, C. C. S., Principal Assistant Colonial Secretary, born 20th October 1817, died 13th May 1880, married :—

- (a) In St. Paul's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 28th November 1839, Anna Eliza Charlotta de Vos, born 9th October 1820, died 28th June 1856, daughter of Pieter Lodewyk de Vos, 2nd Clerk, Kandyan Department, Chief Secretary's Office, and Notary Public, and Julia Theodora Kessels.
- (b) At Galle, 4th February 1858, Harriet Caroline Ludovici, born 11th June 1825, died 10th January 1899, widow of Nathaniel Adrian Austin (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. VII, page 29) and daughter of Petrus Jacobus Hendrik Ludovici and Henrietta Josephina Smit. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. III, page 62).  
Of the first marriage, he had
  - 1 Eliza Jane, born 8th August 1840, died 8th May 1911, married in All Saints' Church, Galle, 24th May 1877, Herry Gayet.
  - 2 George Edward, who follows under IV.
  - 3 Harriet Frances, born 11th May 1845, died 19th October 1933, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 15th February 1866, Edwin Beven, Proctor and Notary Public, born 23rd October 1843, died 12th October 1919, son of John Beven and Sophia Maria Koertz.
  - 4 Amelia Letitia, born 19th July 1847, died 18th January 1864.
  - 5 Lucy Joseline, born 4th August 1849, died 14th January 1935, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, in 1878, John Maxfield.
  - 6 Louisa Charlotte born 29th June 1852, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 26th July 1880, Robert Spencer Schrader, born 14th May 1856, died 29th March 1904, son of Frederick Justus Schrader and Harriet Andree. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 72).
  - 7 William Henry, who follows under V.  
Of the second marriage, he had
    - 8 James William, who follows under VI.
    - 9 Eliza Helen, born 14th September 1861, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 23rd March 1883, Cyril Bailey Nicholas, B. A. (Cantab.), First Principal Assistant, Royal College, Colombo, born 21st October 1854, died 2nd March 1906.



son of Samuel Nicholas, Colonial Chaplain, and Lucilla Jemima Roosmale Cocq. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. XIV, page 20).

- 10 Ada Frances, born 25th August 1863, married in St. Paul's Church, Kandy, 10th November 1883, Eugene Beven, born 17th January 1857, son of John Beven and Sophia Maria Koertz.
- 11 Edith Lucy, born 8th June 1866, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, September 1886, Theodore Cecil Van Rooyen, Proctor and Notary Public, born 16th July 1862, died 8th June 1927, son of Charles Richard Van Rooyen and Charlotta Petronella Mack.

### III.

Joseph Swan, born 16th April 1831, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 10th May 1860, Charlotte Antonetta de Boer, born 12th March 1840, daughter of Alexander Frederick de Boer and Roberta Helena Kriekenbeek. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. V, pages 70 and 75). He had by her

- 1 Lilian Charlotte, born 5th March 1861, married Archibald Campbell.
- 2 Walter Joseph, who follows under VII.
- 3 Emma Clarina, born 4th December 1864, died 12th August 1867.
- 4 Hope Mildred, born 5th January 1867, married Charles Estrop.
- 5 Emelia Antoinette, born 23rd June 1868, died 4th April 1934, married 23rd May 1890, Edwin Joseph Toussaint, born 22nd May 1855, son of James Theodore Toussaint and Henrietta Frances Vander Straaten. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. IV, page 38, and Vol. XXIII, page 166).
- 6 Evelyn Amanda, born 12th February 1871, married ..... Jones.
- 7 Gerald Joseph Colin, born 19th November 1877, married in the Baptist Church, Cinnamon Gardens, 17th October 1899, Emily Henrietta Pate, born 5th September 1883, died 22nd April 1929.
- 8 Joseph William Rupert Campbell, died 9th August 1883 in infancy.

### IV.

George Edward Swan, Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court, born 18th February 1843, died 17th May 1909, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 13th May 1867, Alice Mary Beven, born

5th October 1849, died 26th December 1906, daughter of John Beven and Sophia Maria Koertz. He had by her

- 1 Edward Hugh, L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.), Civil Medical Department, born 1st February 1868, died 20th September 1904.
- 2 Eva Alice, born 26th January 1869, died 7th January 1925, married in St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 13th April 1896, James Charles Stewart, born 28th January 1865, died 22nd July 1928, widower of Evelyn Maud Dickman, and son of George Stewart, C. C. S., and Alice Matilda Dickman.
- 3 Helen Agnes, born 7th March 1870, married in St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 20th October 1896, Charles Alexander de Silva, Surgeon, died 4th January 1897.
- 4 Percy Hermon, who follows under VIII.
- 5 Rose Eliza Sophia, born 7th December 1872.
- 6 Gertrude Harriet, born 3rd August 1874, died 12th July 1936.
- 7 Marion Constance, born 21st September 1876.
- 8 Elsie Frances, born 5th April 1878, married in St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 12th August 1903, Theodore Dornhorst Mack, Proctor and Notary Public, widower of Joseline Daniels, and son of John William Mack and Josina Charlotte Dornhorst. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 105).
- 9 James, who follows under IX.

### V.

William Henry Swan, M.B.C.M. (Edin.), L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.), Civil Medical Department, born 4th February 1855, died 1st June 1904, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 21st June 1880, Rosalind Caroline Modder, born 19th November 1857, died 20th August 1915, daughter of John William Modder and Caroline Frances Anjou. He had by her

- 1 William Giffard Clarence, who follows under X.
- 2 Rosebud Marjorie Verna, born 3rd February 1883, died 21st July 1885.
- 3 Henry Eric Carl, who follows under XI.
- 4 Victor Leslie Sheldon, who follows under XII.
- 5 Rose Madge Elaine, born 2nd August 1889.
- 6 Gladys Augusta Caro, born 28th May 1891.
- 7 Vernon Louis St. Clair, who follows under XIII.
- 8 Erin Lilian Myra, born 31st August 1899, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 20th March 1920, James Swan, who follows under IX.

## VI.

James William Swan, Proctor, born 25th November 1858, died 8th March 1926, married in All Saints' Church, Galle, 14th April 1884, Marianne Eleanor Morgan, born 17th February 1859, died May 1919, daughter of Trutand Frederick Morgan and Sophia Antonetta de Vos. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. XI, page 64). He had by her

- 1 James Trutand Morgan, Proctor, born 29th March 1887, died 15th February 1929.
- 2 Eleanor Frances Morgan, married December 1906, William Wright Beling, born 31st December 1867, died 23rd June 1928, widower of Charlotte Eliza Conderlag, and son of William Wright Beling, Proctor, and Maria Elizabeth Prins. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. VII, page 137, Vol. XVIII, page 66, and Vol. XXV, page 161).
- 3 Ethel Morgan.
- 4 Ann Freida Morgan.
- 5 Eric Morgan, who follows under XIV.

## VII.

Walter Joseph Swan, born 2nd November 1862, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 8th September 1886, Gertrude Elizabeth Leembruggen, born 16th August 1866, daughter of Gerard Hendrik Leembruggen and Elizabeth Rieberg. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. IV, page 27). He had by her

- 1 Florence Mildred, born 17th August 1887.
- 2 Forrest Raymond, born 1896, married in St. Paul's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 7th January 1924, Ruby Cartwright.

## VIII.

Percy Hermon Swan, Land Surveyor, born 13th August 1871, married in Holy Trinity Church, Nuwara Eliya, 31st March 1902, Grace Blanche Goonewardene, born 9th May 1875. He had by her

- 1 Esme Blanche, born 12th April 1905, married in St. Paul's Church, Kandy, 5th September 1931, Alison Ivor Weinman, born 26th August 1902, son of William Algernon Weinman and Caroline Maude Reimers.
- 2 Earle Percy, B. Sc., D. F. H., Grad. I. E. E. Assistant Engineer, Government Electrical Department, born 5th September 1906.
- 3 Deryck Hugh, Land Surveyor and Inspector, Municipal Engineer's Department, Colombo, born 5th September 1906.

## IX.

James Swan, born 6th August 1880, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 20th May 1920, Erin Lillian Swan, (Vide V, S. supra). He had by her

- 1 Erin Alice Rose, born 23rd February 1921.
- 2 Pauline Beatrice, born 1st December 1922.
- 3 James Edward William, born 19th May 1926.

## X.

William Giffard Clarence Swan, born 28th September 1881, died 16th January 1925, married at the British Consulate, Bangkok, 10th August 1907, Marie Christiana Jelttes, born 6th April 1890, daughter of Peter Adrian Jelttes, Captain in the Dutch Army, and Madame Maju. He had by her

- 1 Cora, born 19th December 1909, died 28th December 1909.
- 2 William Henry, born 1st January 1913.
- 3 Arthur Clive, born 14th June 1915.
- 4 Frank Digby, born 7th February 1917.
- 5 Jean Marie, born 24th October 1918.
- 6 George Clarence, born 23rd April 1921.

## XI.

Henry Eric Carl Swan, L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.), L.F.P.S. (Glas.), L.D.S. (Edin.), born 17th September 1884, married in St. Mary's Church, Veyangoda, 19th December 1912, Margaret Beven, born 8th June 1886, daughter of Eugene Beven and Ada Frances Swan (vide II, 10, supra). He had by her

- 1 Rose Ada, born 14th December 1913.
- 2 Doreen, born 18th December 1915.

## XII.

Victor Leslie Sheldon Swan, born 8th June 1887, married in All Saints' Church, Borella, 28th June 1911, Primrose Arelene Philomena Wright, born 23rd April 1891, daughter of Archibald Conrad Wright and Cecilia Elizabeth de La Harpe. He had by her

- 1 Primrose Marie, born 30th June 1912.
- 2 Therese Genevieve, born 3rd January 1916.
- 3 Dorothy Joyce, born 29th April 1922.
- 4 Shelley Bernard St. Clair, born 31st December 1928.

## XIII.

Vernon Louis St. Clair Swan, Advocate, born 19th March 1894, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 28th April 1919, Florence Evelyn Hole, born 10th July 1897, daughter of George Adolphus Hole, L.M.S. (Ceylon), and Florence Mabel Wright. He had by her

- 1 Eileen Theodora, born 26th September 1920.
- 2 Ione Patricia, born 18th September 1921.
- 3 Sheila Marie, born 22nd March 1923.
- 4 Ninette Carmen, born 31st May 1925.
- 5 Miriam Antoinette, born 27th May 1927.
- 6 Frances Evelyn, born 7th October 1928.
- 7 Rita Christine, born 13th March 1930.
- 8 Pamela Joan, born 12th December 1931.
- 9 Rosemary Florence, born 28th August 1933.

## XIV.

Eric Morgan Swan, born 24th September 1894, died 17th May 1923, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 29th December 1916, Lena Imra Koch, born 23rd August 1895, died 2nd November 1919, daughter of Ebenezer Theodore Koch and Georgiana Elizabeth Schubert, widow of Luke Charles Alfred Schokman. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. X, page 133, and Vol. XXV, page 112). He had by her

- 1 Godfrey Vane, born 26th October 1917.
- 2 Eric Trutand, born 1st November 1919.

**Notes.** (1) Anna Burnat, referred to under I, was a daughter of Daniel Burnat of Berne in Switzerland, Dessawe of Matara, and Elizabeth Holst of Galle, who married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, on the 15th March 1789. The latter died in Colombo on the 4th December 1805.

(2) James Swan, referred to under II, was Confidential Clerk to the Governor, the Right Hon'ble Sir Robert Wilmot Horton, Bart, G.C.B., and in the same capacity to the Right Hon'ble James Alexander Stewart Mackenzie. He was in turn Official Reporter to the Legislative Council, Clerk in the Despatch Department and Chief Clerk of the Colonial Secretary's Office. He acted as Second Assistant Colonial Secretary, and as Principal Assistant Colonial Secretary till he was confirmed in the latter appointment in 1863. He retired in 1875.

## GENEALOGY OF THE ALDONS FAMILY OF CEYLON.

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

## I.

Robert Aldons, Boekhouder, died 29th July 1805, married  
 (a) 15th July 1781, Maria Cornelia Lourensz.  
 (b) 8th November 1789, Anna Catharina Liudeman. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXI, page 153).

Of the first marriage, he had :—

- 1 Henricus Johannes, baptised 23rd November 1782.
- 2 Johan Jacobus Daniel, who follows under II.

Of the second marriage, he had :—

- 3 Jacobus Robertus, who follows under III.
- 4 William Hendrik, who follows under IV.
- 5 Bernardina Dorothea, baptised 2nd June 1793, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 14th November 1814, Hendrik Diederik Trek, baptised 27th June 1784, son of Wouter Gillis Trek and Carolina Margareta Erhard.
- 6 Johannes Philippus, baptised 28th December 1794.
- 7 Robertina Catharina, baptised 27th April 1796, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 30th September 1822, Wybrand Ernst Muller.
- 8 Maria Gertruyda, baptised 8th October 1797, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 15th November 1824, Johannes Reynier Fryer, baptised 1st May 1791, widower of (1) Anna Maria Poppenbeek, and (2) Johanna Elizabeth Wolfdaal, and son of Coenraad August Hendrik Fryer and Johanna Maria Henrietta Luchveld. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VII, page 26).
- 9 Petrus Adolphus, baptised 18th August 1799.
- 10 Johanna Elizabeth, baptised 21st March 1802.
- 11 Maria Elizabeth, baptised 4th August 1805.

## II.

Johan Jacobus Daniel Aldons, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 21st April 1805, Johanna Dorothea Rudolph. He had by her :—

- 1 Johanna Maria Elizabeth, baptised 7th January 1807.
- 2 George, baptised 22nd October 1813, died 24th October 1815.

## III.

Jacobus Robertus Aldons, born 16th August 1790, died 29th May 1854, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 25th September 1820, Johanna Dorothea Woutersz, baptised 14th March 1802, died 5th January 1857, daughter of Adrianus Jacobus Woutersz and Johanna Cornelia Horn of Tutucorin, widow of Johannes Gerardus Driberg. He had by her :

- 1 Jacobus Carolus (Alexander Charles) who follows under V.
- 2 Engelina Gertruida (Gerardina), born 20th September 1823, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 8th July 1844, Henricus Albertus Fermer, born 22nd September 1820, son of Pieter Johan Fermer and Christina Gertruida Catharina Heer.
- 3 Robert Daniel, who follows under VI.
- 4 Gilles (George) Alexander, who follows under VII.
- 5 Wilhelmina Carolina, born 25th October 1830, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 25th September 1856, John George Martenstyn.
- 6 Petronella Charlotta, born 4th December 1834, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 16th October 1851, Emanuel Lambertus Wydeman, born 20th March 1826, son of Stephanus Wydeman and Maria Barbara Pieres.
- 7 Robert Simon Diederik, who follows under VIII.
- 8 William George Alexander, born 10th March 1840, died 18th April 1843.

## IV.

Willem Hendrik Aldons, born 1st January 1792, died 8th February 1822, married September 1813, Justina Susanna Ludovici, born 25th February 1793, daughter of Jan Hendrik Ludovici and Gertruida Rudolphina Hoffman. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. III, page 61). He had by her :—

- 1 Catharina Robertina Dorothea Petronella, born 25th July 1814, died 1st May 1869, married Charles Perkins, born 1816, died 1848, son of George Henry Perkins, Warrant Officer in the British Army, and.....Brooker.
- 2 Augenita Dorothea, married 1826, Johann Godfried Koch, born 2nd November 1811, died 1890, son of Johann Godfried Koch and Susanna Isabella Brohier (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 130).

- 3 Josephina, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 9th November 1837, Petrus Albert Gerlach.
- 4 Matilda Maria, born 14th June 1822, died 2nd August 1894, married August 1838, Frederic Charles Grenier, born 6th August 1809, died 18th October 1861, son of Johan Francois Grenier and Charlotta Pietersz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 64).
- 5 Daughter, married Reverend George Miller of Calcutta.

## V.

Jacobus Carolus (Alexander Charles) Aldons, born 5th June 1821, died 30th July 1878, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 25th November 1844, Elizabeth Henrietta de Kretser, born 3rd November 1825, died 31st December 1874, daughter of Adrianus Henricus (Hermanis) de Kretser and Johanna Matbhysz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 19). He had by her :—

- 1 Randolph Harris, born 2nd December 1845, died 4th August 1867.
- 2 Michael Oliver, born 17th May 1847, died 1861.
- 3 Rowland Cuthbert, who follows under IX.
- 4 Andrew Francis, born 26th August 1850, died 10th August 1851.
- 5 Rosamond Lydia, born 8th July 1852, died 29th January 1875, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 14th June 1871, William Michael Sansoni, Proctor, born 11th December 1845, son of Joseph Sansoni and Sarah Henrietta Staats.
- 6 Edgar Theobald, born 25th May 1854, died 21st September 1872.
- 7 Alice Rosalind, born 3rd April 1856, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 1st December 1873, Miliani Henri Sansoni, Proctor, born 13th August 1849, died 22nd October 1907, son of Joseph Sansoni and Sarah Henrietta Staats.
- 8 Georgiana Frances, born 3rd March 1859, died 26th October 1873.
- 9 Matilda Joceline, born 10th May 1862, died 5th March 1878.
- 10 Hannah Edith, born 10th May 1862, married Harris Eugene Foenander, born 20th August 1854, son of Henry Adolphus Foenander and Mary Elizabeth Sansoni.
- 11 Cicely Maud, born 16th April 1864, died 7th July 1906.
- 12 Constance Ida, born 9th February 1867, died 7th September 1878.



## VI.

Robert Daniel Aldons, born 31st January 1825, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 26th July 1849, Frederica Charlotte de Haan, baptised 30th August 1829, daughter of Elias Wilhelmus de Haan and Frederica Carolina Idé. He had by her :—

- 1 Emanuel Jonathan, who follows under X.
- 2 Ursula Grace, born 28th January 1852.
- 3 Edmund Vincent, born 28th February 1854.
- 4 Laurotta Frances, born 16th December 1855.
- 5 George Wilfred, who follows under XI.
- 6 Grace Constance, born 10th November 1858.

## VII.

Gilles (George) Alexander Aldons, born 10th December 1827, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 30th May 1861, Julia Charlotta de Jong, born 3rd April 1837, daughter of Casparus Adrianus de Jong and Johanna Catharina Goldestein. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IX, page 125). He had by her :—

- 1 Josephine Caroline, born 19th March 1862, died 22nd April 1936, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 26th January 1882, Richard Arthur Fernando.
- 2 James Clement, born 4th July 1866.
- 3 Gertrude Adeline, born 27th August 1868.
- 4 Grace Helen, born 26th July 1870, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 16th January 1902, Theodore Hedgeworth de Jong, son of Theodore Christopher de Jong and Matilda Antoinette Alvis. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IX, page 126).
- 5 George Arthur, born 29th November 1872.
- 6 George Carl, born 20th March 1875, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 25th September 1902, Hannah Laura Wallbeoff, born 8th April 1880, daughter of Frederick Benjamin Wallbeoff and Harriet Grace Martensz.
- 7 Frederick Laurence, born 8th June 1878.
- 8 Florence Maud, born 18th March 1880.
- 9 Florence Mabel, born 21st July 1883.

## VIII.

Robert Simon Diederik Aldons, born 25th January 1837, died 31st July 1876, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolven-

daal, 8th February 1864, Frederica Eliza Pereira. He had by her :—

- 1 Adeline Constance, born 22nd December 1864, died 22nd September 1934.
- 2 Lloyd Theodore, who follows under XII.
- 3 Eden Hugh, born 16th October 1868, died 14th June 1910.
- 4 Owen Walvin, born 4th September 1870, died 22nd July 1894.
- 5 Frederick Albert, who follows under XIII.
- 6 Gertrude Beatrice, born 22nd July 1874.
- 7 Letitia Maud, born 8th May 1876, married in St. Mary's Church, Penang, 26th December 1908, Alfred Gerlach Perkins, born 28th May 1877, son of George Henry Perkins and Francina Eugenia Braantina Gerlach.

## IX.

Rowland Cuthbert Aldons, L.M.S. (Ceylon), born 28th November 1848, died 17th August 1910, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 16th August 1876, Winifred Amelia de Kretser, born 6th March 1856, died 10th December 1932, daughter of Pieter Cornelis de Kretser and Wilhelmina Arnoldina Van Geysel. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, pages 20 and 75). He had by her :—

- 1 Rowland Clarence, who follows under XIV.
- 2 Ida Zoe, born 8th September 1878, died 26th May 1879.
- 3 Alaric Christopher, born 11th November 1879, died 9th December 1906.
- 4 Victor Stanley, born 30th January 1881.
- 5 Werner Ashley, born 16th June 1882, died 30th October 1882.
- 6 Donald Theobald, born 30th July 1883.
- 7 Percival Ernest, who follows under XV.
- 8 Jubila Sybil, born 7th February 1887.
- 9 Evelyn Claude, born 28th November 1888, died 14th June 1897.
- 10 Angel Muriel, born 16th May 1890, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 5th April 1915, Alexander Ivan Carl Daviot, born 4th July 1883, son of Oliver Michael Daviot and Ellis Constance de Kretser.
- 11 Bertram Alwin, born 29th May 1892.
- 12 Gerara Winifred Rienzi, born 20th August 1897.

## X.

Emanuel Jonathan Aldons, born 24th June 1850, died 7th September 1907, married Priscilla Alice Rose. He had by her:—

- 1 Leonie Ophelia Frances Daisy, born 3rd October 1879.

## XI.

George Wilfred Aldons, born 6th September 1857, married in St. Paul's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 27th December 1894, Elizabeth Clotilda . . . . He had by her:—

- 1 Zenita Queenie, born 1st October 1895.
- 2 Ivory Muriel, born 22nd July 1897.

## XII.

Lloyd Theodore Aldons, born 30th November 1866, died 10th October 1912, married in Christ Church, Matale, 9th November 1891, Florence Emily Greve, born 9th September 1873, daughter of John Ryland Greve, J.P., and Emily Anne Wilcox. He had by her:—

- 1 Charlöbelle Emily, born 1st June 1893.
- 2 Ernest Edward, who follows under XVI.
- 3 Vincent Clarence, born 5th September 1895.
- 4 Edwin Austin, who follows under XVII.
- 5 Richard Eric, who follows under XVIII.
- 6 John Christopher, born 19th March 1904.

## XIII.

Frederick Albert Aldons, born 21st September 1872, married in the Methodist Church, Hatton, 26th January 1902, Charlotte Wilhelmina Jane Keegel, born 7th May 1879, died 20th August 1926, daughter of Henry Arnold Keegel, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Civil Medical Department, and Charlotte Matilda Ball. He had by her:—

- 1 Frederick Clinton Keegel, born 7th February 1914.

## XIV.

Rowland Clarence Aldons, L.M.S. (Ceylon), born 12th August 1877, died 17th August 1910, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 17th December 1908, Sylvia Ethel Ebert, L.M.S. (Ceylon), L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.) L.R.F.P. & S. (Glas.), born 28th March 1882, died 9th March 1930, daughter of Charles Alexander Carnie Ebert and Alice Grace Van Dort. (D.U.B. Journal, Vol. VI, page 79). He had by her:—

- 1 Rowland Cuthbert, born 17th September 1909, married in St. Paul's Church, Kynsey Road, Colombo, 1st December 1934, Florence Anne Marguerite Schokman, born 2nd April 1912, daughter of Edgar Harris Schokman and Florence Adeline Siebel. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, page 110).

## XV.

Percival Ernest Aldons, born 26th July 1885, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 2nd March 1916, Hilda Mildred Paulusz, born 4th September 1884, daughter of John Gerard Paulusz and Anne Catherine Thomas. He had by her:—

- 1 Percival Richard, born 11th December 1916, died 16th January 1922.
- 2 Thomas Edward, born 31st July 1918.
- 3 Reginald Henry, born 3rd September 1920.
- 4 Eric Mervyn, born 31st July 1923.
- 5 Hugh Cecil, born 6th April 1925.
- 6 Frederick, born 4th November 1926.

## XVI.

Ernest Edward Aldons, born 9th August 1894, married in St. Michael's and All Angels' Church, Colombo, 5th April 1919, Grace Darling Ephraims, born 9th December 1899, daughter of Lancelot Henry Ephraims and Louisa Isabel Warkus. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 109). He had by her:—

- 1 Ernest Edward, born 15th August 1920.
- 2 Audley Beryl, born 6th August 1922.
- 3 Brenda Vyvette, born 12th July 1926.
- 4 Grace Kathleen, born 8th September 1930.

## XVII.

Edwin Austin Aldons, born 30th October 1896, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 2nd January 1928, Phyllis Violet Wayvenne Gray, born 28th October 1898, daughter of William Gray and Sarah Joseline Rode. He had by her:—

- 1 Carl Gerald, born 16th June 1929.
- 2 Robert Francis Anthony, born 13th July 1931.

## XVIII.

Richard Eric Aldons, born 22nd December 1897, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Regent Street, Colombo, 21st June 1924, Ina Olive Rode, born 11th January 1899, daughter of James Pieter Rode and Adeline Koelmeyer. He had by her:—

- 1 Desree Barbara, born 11th February 1926.
- 2 Verna Marjorie, born 20th December 1927.
- 3 Rex Eric, born 26th April 1930.
- 4 Malcolm Eric, born 8th September 1934.

## REMINISCENCES OF TRAVEL FORTY YEARS AGO.

BY H. C. R. ANTHONISZ.

Shortly after I left College Mr. R. L. Ephraums arranged to go on an extensive tour of the Southern Province with that genial Inspector of Schools, Mr. Seneviratne, and I was induced to join them. We went fully equipped with guns and ammunition to Mr. Seneviratne's residence in Matara, from where we set out in a dog cart harnessed to a diminutive fat pony. Mr. Seneviratne's cook went ahead in a single bullock cart with the necessary paraphernalia. Just before starting, the pony appeared to be in great pain and kept rolling about the garden at an alarming rate. On seeing this, we abandoned all idea of getting any forrarder, but to our surprise we were informed by the horse-keeper that the animal was only in one of his playful moods. We went from Rest House to Rest House in the Matara District—Kamburupitiya, Hakmana &c, often staying at School Rooms when no Rest House was available. From the Matara District we travelled to the West of the Tangalle District—Wiraketiya, Wallasmulla, Kirama &c. At Wallasmulla, we were entertained right royally by the Gansabawa President and were given luxurious divans to sleep on. At this place I was very intrigued at seeing Ephraums walking through the fields, in parts abounding in high grass and water, and getting blue coots, one after another. This was the first time I had seen this bird. I hurried up but was too late, he having scoured completely the portion in which the birds were. I had to be content with bowling over a couple of painted snipe and a few water pheasants. The next night we slept at the Kirama School Master's house. He was a quaint old fellow and wanted to know from the Inspector of Schools whether he required any "condemned" milk. From here we went on to that delightfully situated Rest House at Ranne, now, alas, abolished, where you have to take precautions against contracting malaria. Though seemingly very dry, being situated on an eminence, the place abounds in anopheles, whose sting generally brings about a bad bout of fever. The neighbouring villagers have distinctly enlarged spleens, visible at a cursory glance. Here we had seve-

ral glimpses of pea fowl but could not get a shot at them. We then went on to the Ambalantota Rest House situated on the bank of the Walawe River. Here we had some delightful teal shooting in a tank adjoining Mr. Elliott's paddy fields which Mr. Alfred Drieberg, a splendid shikari, was looking after. Here we were quite surprised to see dhobies washing in a pool with huge crocodiles as their companions. These monsters passed close to them time after time, almost rubbing themselves against their thighs. We asked them whether this was not highly dangerous. They laughed and said the crocodiles were quite harmless. On our return journey, I was fortunate in bagging a couple of pea fowl. On reaching the Rest House we were followed by the Police Officer who wanted to know whether we possessed game licenses, which fortunately we did. R. L. Ephraums became indignant, opened his box, and displayed the license to the Headman, exclaiming:—"Here you are, are you now satisfied?" Whilst at Ambalantota Rest House I was surprised to meet the Revd. Mr. Tebb of the Wesleyan Mission in the Southern Province. He was at the time Superintendent of the District. I saw him drive up in a waggonette with a big-boned horse harnessed to it.

Our next halt was at Hambantota. En route we had some blue coot shooting at Hathagala, at that time an ideal sportsman's paradise for birds of all kinds, but now alas, practically denuded of them. The only bird you can be pretty sure of getting is the blue coot. The vast uncultivated plains here have now been converted into paddy fields. At Hambantota we moved into the dilapidated but spacious old Rest House. There was no thought then of building the delightfully situated and roomy Rest House we now possess, the lounge of which affords one a view of the entire harbour, while the peaks of the Katarama Hills can be seen in a blue haze. The harbour is very often dotted with fishing boats sailing to and fro. You get very fair sea bathing at the bottom of the cliff in front of the Rest House. This Rest House is the best I have seen, and I have visited the majority of Rest Houses in the Island. On the evening of our arrival I walked out with my gun in the scrub adjoining the old Rest House. Many a hare scampered off. I shot two and stopped at that. Now you may walk the whole morning and evening and never see a hare.

From Hambantota, by cart to Gonorrua and Megahajandure, very isolated villages, which only boasted of a bad cart track as the only mode of approach to them. Gonorrua did not interest me, but Megahajandure possessed tanks, a stream, and extensive plains abounding in game. Ephraums and I went out after dinner to an adjoining plain; it was bright moonlight at the time and the plain was black with pig towards the edge

of the jungle, and I had a very distant rifle shot at them. One was evidently hit, as there was a lot of snorting and noise in the jungle. I approached to have a second shot, when the brute gradually made its way into the thick jungle, his snorts and grunts diminishing in intensity as I went close. It was a hopeless task to track him, so we returned. The next morning we had a bath in the tank close by. The Police Officer, who was also the School Master, had put up a platform at a fair height from the water beyond the reach of crocodiles and from here we let down buckets and had a good souse. Whilst we were bathing a herd of deer, with three or four young ones and a couple of fine antlered stags, came out of the jungle to the edge of the opposite side of the tank, had their drink, and quietly sauntered off. I learnt subsequently that the Police Officer was a staunch Buddhist and would not tolerate any shooting within his jurisdiction. During a walk later on, we came upon some monster crocodiles, the largest I have seen in the Island. They lay like huge logs on the edge of a practically dried up tank, and allowed us to approach them to about 300 yards when they made for the water, and they could run. After this I walked along the bed of a dried up stream in the hope of getting a shot at leopard, pig or deer. I suddenly came upon a crocodile with a stump of a tail, the missing portion having evidently been bitten or shot off; he ran towards the water and disappeared. On going to the spot I found a hole near the stream about four feet in width, full of water, into which he had entered.

I well remember the situation of the school; it had a quadrangular compound and a verandah all round. By the edge of the compound adjoining this verandah, there were orange trees systematically planted, the luscious fruits of which could easily have been plucked by the hand by one standing at the edge of the verandah. The oranges were large and delicious. I have seldom tasted any better.

From Megahajandure, we went on to Tissa, an interesting and historic spot with its numerous Dagobas towering towards the sky, beautiful tanks and smiling extensive green paddy fields. Towards evening we made a tour of the tanks with their majestic forest trees. We caught many a glimpse of the pretty egret on these trees.

These birds, as is well-known, are snowy white and possess white plumes, much valued for hats &c. They are protected, and the shooting of them renders one liable to a fine. From Tissa we proceeded to Kirinda, by the sea, where one can get fair sea bathing and plenty of fish. I saw large quantities of almost transparent prawns heaped up on the beach, where they are dried and are then transported for sale. We next went to Boondala, with its vast

plains, where we saw deer at a distance browsing with cattle. Whilst walking across one of these plains I shot a couple of golden plover. The last shot happened to be a high overhead one; the bird dropped almost at our feet. Mr. Seneviratne, who was by me, was delighted and said—"Well done". Our trip was now practically at an end and we retraced our steps *via* Tangalle. Mr. Seneviratne induced Ephraums to relieve the tedium of the journey with a song. His favourite one was: "Down in the diving bell, at the bottom of the sea."

He was then the leading chorister at All Saints' Church and possessed a sweet tenor voice.

At Tangalle I saw turtle bobbing up and down in the sea in front of the Rest House. I had a shot with a rifle at one and was lucky to hit it on the head. It sank immediately. I sent a man and got it brought ashore with difficulty and sent it on to my cousin, Mr. Arthur Anthonisz, who was then Superintendent of Minor Roads of the Tangalle District.

This brought our delightful trip to a close. We were sorry to part and wished the trip could have gone on a bit longer. Back we wended our way to the City, which held no attractions for us.

Before closing I cannot help but pay a tribute, however feeble, to Mr. Seneviratne. I have known many school masters of renown, but I will always have a tender spot for dear Seneviratne who was as good a type as any bluff English gentleman. He had a quaint way with him and was full of vim. Nothing depressed him. His motto appeared to be 'Do or die'. On this trip, about which I have written very feebly, I fear, Mr. Seneviratne went about dressed in thick homespun and did not even discard his vest. We had a laugh at him and said that he was lightly attired for the climate. He exclaimed "What do you youngsters know? Don't you know that flannel is a non-conductor of heat? One does not necessarily feel any warmer whilst wearing flannel. Besides, it is a certain safeguard against changes of weather."

I was in his form at the Royal College. He taught us French, though he used to prepare the lessons himself before coming into the form. He carried on in his inimitable style like a man who had lived a good portion of his life in gay Paris. He was ambitious and liked to see boys shew the same trait. Mr. C. E. de Vos knew him intimately and told me that Mr. Seneviratne was of the greatest possible assistance to him in his school career.

Though bluff and liable to be misunderstood by some people, there was a lot of the milk of human kindness in the dear old man. I wish there were a few more of his type amongst us; the world would then be a richer and fairer place to dwell in.



## NOTES OF EVENTS.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
GENERAL COMMITTEE.

*Tuesday, 16th June 1936:* (1) Votes of condolence on the deaths of Mr. James Joseph and Mr. Lloyd Siebel were passed. (2) The election by the Entertainment and Sports Committee of Mr. J. W. Smith as its Secretary was confirmed. (3) It was reported that the five shares in the D.B.U. Buildings Co., Ltd., donated by Dr. G. A. Rode to the Union, had been transferred, and that they were now in the name of Dr. R. L. Spittel pending the registration of the Union. It was resolved that the appreciation and the thanks of the General Committee, on behalf of the Union, be conveyed to Dr. Rode for his very generous gift. (4) It was decided to circulate among the members of the General Committee the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Constitution and By-Laws, and to consider them at the next Meeting. (5) Mrs. E. H. Vander Wall's resignation from the Union was accepted with regret. (6) The following were elected to membership:—Dr. Noel Kelaart and Mr. J. V. Potger. (7) The enrolment of Mr. H. J. Austin was approved.

*Tuesday, 21st July 1936:* (1) The Rules of the Constitution, as revised, were approved with certain verbal amendments. It was decided to summon a Special General Meeting of the Union for the purpose of adopting the revised Rules. (2) It was resolved that there was no need for action to affiliate the Tennis Section as it formed an integral part of the Union. The Courts were laid on Crown land leased to the Union at the instance and expense of certain members of the Union. (3) It was resolved that Mr. G. P. Keuneman, M.B.E., be written to, congratulating him on the honour conferred by His Majesty the King. (4) A hearty vote of appreciation was passed to the organisers of the Home Crafts Exhibition held on the 22nd June, 1936, which was a great success. (5) A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the President, Dr. R. L. Spittel, for presenting the Union with a new stage. (6) The following were elected to membership: Messrs. C. A. H. Ohlmus and E. N. Wambeek.

*Tuesday, 18th August 1936:* (1) Votes of condolence were passed on the deaths of Mr. J. G. Toussaint, Mr. C. H. Deutrom and Mr. H. E. Garvin. (2) A hearty vote of appreciation was passed to Mrs. E. G. Gratiaen and to those who assisted to organize the Variety entertainment held on July 24th. The Entertainment contributed Rs. 110.41 to the Social Service Fund. (3) It was resolved that the Hon'ble Mr. A. E. Keuneman, K.C., be written to

congratulating him on his appointment as Commissioner of Assize. (4) The re-enrolment of Mr. J. J. Weinman and Mr. A. C. Beling as members of the Union was approved. (5) The following were elected to membership: Messrs. E. K. de Vos, B. Van Rooyen and F. A. L. Poulier.

**Honours:** It is seldom that more than one member of the same family receives recognition from the State at one and the same time. We are glad to record that such a case occurred recently in our community. Mr. G. P. Keuneman, than whom there is no more loyal member of the Union, was made a Member of the British Empire on the King's birthday in recognition of his valuable services, first as member of the Local Board, and later as Chairman of the Urban District Council. About the same time his brother, Mr. A. E. Keuneman, who is not second to him in loyalty to the Union, was made a King's Counsel, and shortly afterwards was appointed to act as Commissioner of Assize. We offer these two gentlemen our hearty congratulations, which we would also extend to Mr. Kenneth de Kretser on his appointment to act as Director of Public Works—a post that is for the first time being filled by a Ceylonese.

**Obituary:** We regret to record the demise of the following members:—Mr. James Gibson Toussaint, Mr. Claude Harris Deutrom, Mrs. Ellen Gertrude Beling, wife of Mr. H. P. Beling, Mr. H. E. Garvin and Mr. E. O. Felsingier.

**Lectures and Readings:** On 10th July Mr. R. L. Brohier delivered an interesting and instructive lecture, illustrated with lantern slides, on "Some Far Eastern Ports and Japan". Dr. R. L. Spittel presided, and there was a good attendance of members.

Two meetings of the newly formed Reading Circle were held during the quarter. At the first meeting Dr. R. L. Spittel read a paper on "The Appreciation of Poetry" and an interesting discussion followed, in which several members took part. At the second meeting Mr. R. A. Kriekenbeek read a paper on "Some Indian and Ceylon Poets". On this occasion again a number of members offered comments.

**Exhibition of Home Crafts:** This exhibition, which took place on 22nd June, was a great success, the standard of work being very high. The only disappointing feature of the exhibition was the poor attendance.

**Amendment of the Constitution:** A Special General Meeting of the Union was held on Saturday, 22nd August, at 6.30 p.m. to consider certain amendments to the Constitution. A full report will appear in the next issue of the *Journal*.

## 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, Arthur's 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.

*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 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 Acting Honorary Treasurer of the Union, Mr. W. W. Beling, Buller's Road, Colombo; and not to the Honorary Secretary.

Remittances on account of the Social Service Fund must be made to Mr. Wace de Niese, Bambalapitiya, 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 Avenue, Colombo.



Printed by Tom Davidson at Frewin & Co., 40 Baillie Street, Fort, Colombo, and published by J. R. Toussaint, "Muresk," Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya.

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