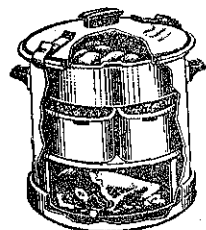


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VOL. XLIV]

JANUARY, 1954.

[No. 1

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

The objects of the Union shall be :

To promote the moral, intellectual, and social well-being of the Dutch descendants in Ceylon.

-:- -:- -:-

To gather by degrees a library for the use of the Union composed of all obtainable books and, papers relating to the Dutch occupation of Ceylon and standard works in Dutch literature.

-:- -:- -:-

To cause to be prepared and.....printed and published, papers, essays, etc: on questions relating to the history and origin of the Dutch Burghers of Ceylon, and to publish the genealogies of the Dutch families now in Ceylon.

-:- -:- -:-

To prepare and publish a memorial history of the Dutch in Ceylon, descriptive of their social life and customs, their methods of administration, and the influence of these upon existing institutions in the Island.

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

VOL. XLIV.]

JANUARY, 1954.

[No. 1

A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

(Communicated)

A wise man has told us that conversation, "gives an added charm to the pleasures of life, brightens and sustains the mind, gives polish to the manners, enlarges the vocabulary, and in every sense of the term affords more recreation and amusement than any other pastime."

While only a few are endowed with the rare gift of oratory, there appears to be no reason why many who are not so fortunate should not excel as conversationists.

Clubs and other institutions where members foregather are no doubt, besides private social functions, the most popular venues for general conversation. But can it be said where other things are of course equal, that conversation which is *good conversation*, is indulged in at most of these assemblies?

It is a sad admission that good talk is rarely heard now-a-days. The fact that it is heard sometimes belies the rather too sweeping assertion that Conversation is a lost art. Yet, there seems to be no doubt that there is a considerable degree of truth in the wider statement,

Is it not a fact that many of us carry into these foregatherings, and into our social life, the wet blanket of our bile and much more of our official or business burdens, our petty grievances, our ailments and our domestic worries than we need do?

Conversation is not "shop" but yet we hear the judge talk of judicial duties, the lawyer of his legal engagements, the doctor of his patients and the company director or financier of his turn-over. The reverse of this is to be found in that class of people who will bait the judge, the lawyer, the doctor and others, in the kind of talk they have reserved for business. To take one example can there be a more pitiable case than that of a doctor who tries to find social ease and escape after a trying day in hospital ward or consulting room, being badgered by men or women who make a lengthy recital of their ailments.

Again there is the man who talks about himself, his affairs, his status, his worldly possessions, his great achievements. There also is the woman who will discourse on nothing else but her home and her children and her servants—good, bad, or indifferent and all the rest of it. They are so satisfied with themselves and their affairs that they give no thought what terrible bores they may sometimes be proving themselves in their conceitedness.

The man with a grievance, though he speaks with the tongue of men and angels still remains an unmitigated nuisance. He unfolds a long tedious tale of his misfortune, his vicissitudes, and his bad luck or evil fortune, of his being by-passed and his merits over-looked.

Of conversational bores there is no end, but what we have said suffices to show that by dint of keeping a guard on ourselves and continually conversing on themes befitting the attention of sensible men we may cultivate a faculty which is rare as it is desirable.

Retailing gossip, libellous circulation of slanderous insinuations and talk seasoned with questionable jokes, is not conversation. Not that light subjects may not furnish topics for conversation, or that cynicism satire and wit should not find its place in it. Without the latter there will be no piquancy to talk, and wit is essential, for it charms, old and young.

Speaking of wit, a great authority on the subject observes: "There is no more interesting spectacle than to see the effects of wit upon different characters of men, old or young. It penetrates through the coldness and awkwardness of society, gradually bringing men nearer together and giving every man a glad heart and a shining countenance."

The complex relations of life today afford ample material for discussion and conversation without losing our sense of the fitness of things. May we not translate this into a New Year resolution to avoid conversation which will tend to hurt or unsettle, and to remember that a happy digression, a graphically told story, a humorous and a courteous disclaimer, can do much to soften the asperities of life and to make smooth our pathway through it.

SAINT NICHOLAS' DAY IN HOLLAND

by Antonia Ridge

(Published by courtesy of the Netherlands Legation, Ceylon).

My Dutch cousins were all true-Orange to the very backbone, but even they had to admit that, during the month of December, there was a whole lot to be said for having one English parent. For as we triumphantly pointed out to them, we did as well as any of them on Saint Nicholas' Eve, and then, twenty days later, proceeded to celebrate Christmas in real British fashion. This happy and enviable state of affairs was largely due to our English relatives, who, to our intense joy and gratification, thought tenderly of us young exiles, and at Christmas expressed these pleasing sentiments in a deluge of presents and cards. So that December became for us the brightest and best of all months, when we joyously reaped to the full the dual benefits of being half-Dutch, half-English.

The month began with a week of suppressed excitement and perfectly exemplary juvenile behaviour, for the grownups saw to it that we realised that behind the merry jovial Saint Nicholas rides the salutary figure of Black Piet, his loving and devoted servant. Now Black Piet really is black as coal, with the sharpest of eyes, and the most prodigious of memories. It is he who sees to it that really persistent naughtiness just doesn't pay. To this end he keeps a careful eye on the saintly list of presents and awards, intervening from time to time with a "Tut, tut, your Holiness, you just can't give all this to young So-and-so! Why, he's the boy who—", and proceeds to give a detailed account of something pretty awful which young So-and-so thought nobody knew he'd done. It was further impressed upon us that he had even been known to wind up such horrid disclosures by strongly recommending a switch to be left for spanking particularly bad cases, and my Dutch grandmother said she definitely knew that Saint Nicholas had at times reluctantly agreed to this drastic measure. The truth of all this was further driven home by the many pictures now prominently displayed in nearly every shop window, for in them all, Black Piet was to be seen, carrying under his arm a little bundle of switches, with the expression of one who cheerfully hopes for the best but is intelligently prepared for the worst. And in every picture, too, on his great white horse, rode the beloved Saint himself, a far, far finer, figure, we had to admit, than his British brother, Father Christmas. For he wore a beautiful red robe heavily embroidered with gold thread, the mitre on his head glowed with splendid jewels, and even his gloves sparkled with precious stones. But the family likeness was there just the same, for they both seemed to beam on the world, and on children in particular, in exactly the same cheery, festive way, and this and their identical long, white beards showed them to be unmistakably of the same saintly line.

We always gazed at these pictures with unfailing delight before we went on to examine the rest of the gay display in the shop windows.

There were toys of every kind, from the homely wooden doll at a few cents, to the expensive and astonishing mechanical toys, which I used loudly to declare weren't worth the money. Secretly, deep inside me, I knew I only said this because I was afraid of them; afraid of the clever things they did in so superior a manner, and more that half afraid that they knew all this, as I pretended I wasn't interested in the way they danced and skipped, and turned the neatest of somersaults to the faint, sinister whirr of their clockwork interiors.

My cousin Jan and I liked the cake shops best of all. There were dishes and dishes of the most tempting pastries and sweets, but it was the letters that really fascinated and delighted us. There was every letter in the alphabet, gingerbread letters, chocolate letters, marzipan letters and sugar letters, in a choice variety of styles and sizes to suit every taste and every pocket. We used to flatten our noses against the window and Jan would sigh mournfully, "Ach, now why was I christened Jan? Just look at the wretched letter I shall get, one poor leg with a miserable curl on the end of it! Now Wilhelm, there's a sensible name for you! Why, every chap getting a W gets nearly three times as much as me." And we would scamper off to bewail his parents' singular lack of foresight at the next pastrycook's window.

Then at home there was a kind of joyous, secret excitement, with everybody intent on some private and mysterious business, with much tying up of parcels, when nobody was looking, and many other close-guarded preparations. So that by the fifth of December we were ready to burst with excitement and the strain of our best behaviour, and towards tea-time, thankfully and joyfully, went off to spend Saint Nicholas with Oma, our Dutch grandmother, who lived in a roomy, old-fashioned flat in a quiet street tucked away behind the busy Kalverstraat. I remember that as we walked briskly through the crowded streets, everybody seemed especially friendly and jolly. Even the tram-driver, as he went rattling past only a few narrow inches from the pavement, leaned out and shouted, "Hullo, there! Hope you've been good." I noticed that he was smoking a very fine, long cigar, and I came to the conclusion that he must have had a specially early visit from Saint Nicholas.

We charged up the steps to Oma's flat, and were brought to a sudden halt by a welcoming, but determined voice that told us to change into our slippers, and even more firmly warned us not to go in, or even look in the sitting room, but to go straight into the dining-room and wait there. Oma bustled in a few minutes later, ceremoniously hung the key of the sitting-room on a hook over a calendar, and in ten minutes had us all galloping round laying the table and bringing in extra chairs from the kitchen. I remember we managed to put away a very solid Dutch meal in spite of all the excitement, and that we all had to help clear away the tea-things and put everything back in its appointed place, with Oma issuing directions left and right and reminding us, from time to time, that Saint Nicholas is a true Hollander, and just can't stand a muddle. We also helped to push the dining room table back against the tall window, and then Oma spread a

large dust-sheet over the carpet. She said she didn't believe in taking risks, she'd had that carpet for over thirty years, and better be safe than sorry any day. No sooner was all these done than the front-door bell rang and we all rushed down to open it. Just as we had hoped, there was no one in sight, but there propped up against the step were six or seven parcels, and no sooner had we taken them upstairs than the bell rang again, and down we scrambled once more to find more mysterious parcels left by unknown callers. This happened time after time, and we never saw who brought these unaccountable parcels, neither was there any clue to the senders on the parcels themselves, for even the handwriting on the labels was disguised. Nor did we find inside any of the plain, straightforward statements that soberly accompanied our Christmas parcels from England, such as, "With love from Uncle Jim." Instead, we used to find the most peculiar messages often in rhyme, that sent us into fits of hearty laughter, and soon everybody would be noisily and obligingly helping everybody else to guess the authors. Sometimes it was quite easy, as on the occasion when we each received a box of very big handkerchiefs with assorted messages that ran from.

*"Sniffing is horrid, believe me, dear,
So handkerchiefs six you'll find in here."*

to

"A handkerchief white is a lady's delight."

Then a lusty yell of "Tanta Hendrika" went up from us all, for Tanta Hendrika, an elderly spinster lady, had what we charitably called a handkerchief mania, and was for ever warning us of the very unpleasing appearance and behaviour of the child who forgets to take its handkerchief.

By eight o'clock we had each received at least half a dozen of these amusing presents, and the dust-sheet over the carpet was ankle-deep in shavings, brown paper and string. Then gradually the front-door bell would cease its noisy invitations and Oma would say, "Come, all hands to the clear up!" And she would set us all to work, picking up and folding neatly all the brown paper, rolling up the string, and generally putting everything once again in apple-pie order. Then she marched us all into the kitchen and handed us each a little bundle of hay, which we solemnly placed in a line in front of the dining-room stove. This was for Saint Nicholas' horse, a most fastidious animal, with so delicate a stomach that he can only digest the hay offered by really good children, and spurns with disgust the hay of the unrepentant sinner. Then we put our shoes in a long, straight row, right in front of our bundles of hay, and Oma gathered us round her to sing a very old song to Saint Nicholas.

Oma was a valiant champion of the good old ways, and never lost an opportunity of showing us how lovely, and solid, and worthwhile, the old customs really were; and as we sang the old, old song she'd taught us, she would beat time with her foot and look so happy and proud that my whole heart would go out to her in a great bound of love and admiration. I remember, too, that the song was a very warm invitation

to Saint Nicholas to call at our house; it also hinted very clearly that we'd be much obliged if he would kindly remember how good we'd tried to be, even if we hadn't always exactly succeeded, and in case of any possible misunderstanding, we gratefully thanked him, in anticipation, for all the lovely gifts we felt sure he was going to bring us. And in this spirit of confident hope we went merrily to bed.

At crack of dawn two of us tiptoed into the dark, silent dining room, and tip-toed back to report that the hay was gone, the horse had duly recognised our supreme efforts and had eaten the lot. But the shoes which ought to be filled with the just rewards of virtue had disappeared, and there was nothing we could do, except to go back to bed to discuss the mystery in whispers with what patience we could muster. Then, hours and hours later, or so it seemed to us, a cherry voice calling, "*Hé, kinderen!*" sent us all tumbling out of bed to wash and dress in record time.

Breakfast on Saint Nicholas' Day never interested us in the least, and we fairly fell over ourselves to help clear the table, and so start on the real business of the day. For then, with our hearts beating hard and fast, we watched Oma take down the key of the sitting-room, and with great ceremony, unlock, and fling open wide the door. And as we all crowded round her to look inside, she always said in tones of the most profound surprise, "Now, I wonder how Saint Nicholas knew where to find my best tablecloth!" For there, in the centre of the room, was the large, round table, now resplendent in Oma's very best lace tablecloth, and on it, piles of presents for everyone, and there lined up against the wall, were our shoes, bulging, and overflowing with little parcels. There was always a handsome, chocolate letter for everyone, and Jan, nibbling away at his J, was far too busy and happy to envy Mina her three-legged M. We all seemed to get exactly the things we wanted most, and I distinctly remember that Saint Nicholas some times even took the trouble to add little notes of advice as well. Thus one year, when Gerarda got a pair of really beautiful skates, she was directed by the thrifty saint to see to it that she sent her old ones, which were now too small, to a younger cousin in Deventer. Once too I noticed something rather odd and disturbing. My mother had just found a lovely little watch among her presents, and to my astonishment, rushed 'straight over and kissed my father. I thought this highly unnecessary, unless of course.—But I hastily shook off these unworthy suspicions and began to unpack the fascinating little parcels in the toes of my shoes.

The rest of the day always seemed to fly like a dream, with endless good things to eat, and a lovely festive litter of presents all over the place, and nobody minding the muddles or the noise we made. Before we went to bed, we always heard a special story, Oma's very own story, which she only told on Saint Nicholas' Day, and which had now become so beloved a family tradition that we had come to think of it as part and parcel of the great day itself.

Oma always began by saying that really and truly it all happened to our great grandmother's grandmother. Her name was Tootje, and when

she was a child, times were very bad indeed for all the brave people of Holland. So that Tootje's mother and father had to work hard from dawn to dusk to feed and clothe their large family. But, said Oma, they did this so cheerfully that their home was always merry and bright, and nobody ever thought of grumbling and complaining. Then one day Tootje's mother went to market and bought a real bargain, a great bundle of very bright red wool. It honestly was a bargain, even if it was so red that nothing, absolutely nothing, could possibly be redder. And she and the older children, boys as well as girls, set to work to make warm, winter stockings for the whole family; and not one of them dreamed of making a fuss about wearing them, because, even if they were extremely red, they were also extremely warm and comfortable. Except Tootje! She grumbled loudly every day in the most exasperating way, so that every one of her nine brothers and sisters, not to mention her hard working mother and father, were heartily sick of hearing her state exactly how much she hated red stockings and why couldn't she have some other colour. In vain did her sensible mother point out the unhappy consequences if Black Piet should overhear this selfish, ungrateful whining, but the foolish child, it seemed, had now grown to enjoy her daily grumble and paid no heed to her mother's solemn warnings. And of course, as might be expected, Black Piet did get to hear of her tiresome lamentations and at once reported the whole affair to Saint Nicholas, who was very angry indeed, especially when he heard what a bargain the red wool really was. So when the troublesome Tootje got up on Saint Nicholas' Day, she found to her dismay that the white horse had jibbed at eating her hay, and Black Piet had left her a very ugly-looking switch and not a single present.

At this dramatic moment Oma always paused and looked round at us all, and there would be a little shocked silence. Then, quite suddenly it would become almost unbearable to think of even such a long-ago child as little Tootje getting no presents at all, and we would chorus, "Go on, please go on!" So Oma would eloquently describe Tootje's tears and remorse, and the relief and joy of her whole family when a mysterious note was discovered behind the kitchen clock, a note from Saint Nicholas himself, in which he said he had noted with pleasure the change for the better in Tootje's whole outlook. He was therefore prepared to let bygones be bygones, and she was to look on the second shelf of the linen press, right-hand corner, where she would find her heart's desire. There she found the very thing she wanted most in all the world, a musical box that played three tunes, not all at once of course, but one after the other, in the most delightful way.

At this point a little ripple of excitement always ran round the room, for we knew exactly what Oma was going to do. She was going to get up and go over to the china cupboard, unlock the door, take out a dark carved box, and say very quietly, "And this, my dears, is the very musical box, so you can see for yourselves how true this story really is."

We knew she would very carefully wind it up, and that presently a faint, sweet, tinkling music would fill the warm, hushed room; and in the last cascade of silver notes I would hear, as in a dream, the distant echo of fairy horses galloping under the stars, carrying Saint Nicholas and Black Piet far, far away into the crisp December night.

TERMS OF CAPITULATION OF COLOMBO, GALLE AND KALUTARA

BY

The Dutch to the English

The two earlier numbers of the Journal included a collection of notes on the attack and defence of Colombo prior to its surrender to the English on the 16th of February 1796. We give below, the twenty six terms under which the capitulation was effected.

(Editor)

CAPITULATION OF COLOMBO

BY

The Dutch to the English

Preliminary Article

John Gerard Van Angelbeek, Counsellor of India, Governor and Director of the Dutch Possessions in the Island of Ceylon, offers to deliver up to Colonel Steuart and Captain Gardner, Commanding the English Troops, the Fortress of Colombo upon the following conditions at the expiration of three days.

Answer

Major Patrick Alexander Agnew, Adjutant-General of the British Troops in the Island of Ceylon, by virtue of the powers delegated to him by Colonel James Stuart, Commanding the British Army, and Allan Hyde Gardner, Esquire, Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Heroine*, and Senior Officer of the Naval Force before Colombo, consent to admit of the Surrender of the Fort of Colombo, on the under-mentioned terms, provided the Capitulation is signed this evening, and the Fort delivered to the British Troops tomorrow morning at ten o'clock in the manner stipulated in the following articles.

Article 1st

In this Capitulation shall be included the Town of Galle and the Fort of Caliture, with all their Dependencies, Lands, Domains, Sovereign rights of the Honourable Dutch East India Company, and the Governor shall issue orders to the Commander and Council of Galle, and the Commandant of Caliture, for the actual surrender, according to the contents of this Capitulation.

Answer

Granted.

Article 2nd

The Fort, with all its Dependencies, Artillery, Ammunition, Stores, Provisions, and all other effects belonging to the Company, with the Plans and Papers relative to the Fortifications, shall *bona fide* be delivered up, without concealing or keeping back anything.

Answer

Granted. The Surveys of the Districts of the Island of Ceylon, and the Coasts, with all other Public Plans to be included.

Article 3rd

And as the Books at Colombo as well as Galle are two years in arrears, the delivery shall take place according to the balances now actually existing, and a reasonable time be allotted to the Commercial Servants here and at Galle, with their Assistants, to finish the Books, and they shall during that time receive the pay and emoluments fixed for their services. As the Head Smith, Copper, House Carpenters, the Overseer of the Arsenal, and the Brick-maker receive everything by indent, their account shall be examined and liquidated by our Accountant, also paid by the English; on the other hand, the above mentioned Artificers and Overseers are responsible for the Articles issued to them.

Answer

One year, or eighteen months if absolutely necessary, shall be allowed for the purpose of arranging the Books, during which time a reasonable salary shall be paid to Servants of the Dutch Company necessarily employed in this Department. The accounts of the Artisans shall be examined and liquidated.

Article 4th

All Public Papers shall also be faithfully delivered over, but attested copies of all the Public and Secret Consultations held during this short Government, and which he has not had an opportunity of forwarding to Holland or Batavia, shall be given to Governor Van Angelbeek to enable him to answer for his conduct in the management of affairs.

Article 5th

The Returns and Merchandise of the Company which are partly laden on board the Ships *Berlican* and *Eensgezindheid* now lying in the roads and partly stored in private houses, as well as those at Galle, shall also be faithfully delivered by the Commissaries, who shall be appointed by the Governor, to Major Agnew, who is authorised by the Government of Madras to receive them.

Article 6th

But as the Company has of late years borrowed money upon interest of their Servants and Inhabitants, and when in want of ready money have issued *Krediet Brieven* (Promissory Notes) to the amount of about five Lacks of Rix dollars, of which however at least an half is in the Treasury, with a promise to realise the same, and as several servants have their Pay and Emoluments in the Hands of the Company, for which they have no other security than the Effects

Answer

Granted.

Answer

All Merchandise, Stores, and public property of every description, either laden on board the ships now anchored under the guns of the Fort, deposited in public Stores, or distributed in the houses of individuals, as well as all public property placed in a similar manner at Galle, Caliture, or any other part of the Island of Ceylon depending on these Governments, shall be delivered by the Commissaries, who shall be named by the Governor, Van Angelbeek, to Major Agnew, the Agent, appointed by the Government of Madras to receive them, in three weeks from this date.

Answer

As Mr. Van Angelbeek has assured the Officers Commanding His Majesty's Naval and land Forces before Colombo, that a refusal to comply with the demand contained in the 6th Article will be attended with the total ruin of the Colony, they consent to the following arrangements regarding the proper currency of this Island, provided the public property of the Dutch Company is found to be conformable to the statement contained in this Article. The

of the Company, the above-mentioned Debts of the Company shall be paid out of them, and the *Krediet Brieven* discharged, which can occasion the less consideration as the Returns alone, taking the fine cinnamon at only three Rds. a pound, the pepper at 100 Rds. per Candy, the Cardamoms at one Rds. a pound, and the piece Goods and other Merchandise at the Invoice price, will amount to about twenty five Lacks of Rds. and all the Debts, Pay, and Notes in circulation not above six Lacks. The Copper Deedies shall continue current for one Stuiver.

Article 7th

All private property, without exception, shall be secured to the proprietors.

Article 8th

In which is expressly included the Funds of the Orphan House or the College for the Administration of the effects of infant Children, and of the Committee, for managing the Poor funds, as also the two Ships now in the roads, *Berlican* and *Eensgezindheid*, which belong to individuals in Holland, and are chartered by the Company, as shall be proved.

English Government of Ceylon will take up the Promissory Notes of the Dutch Government which are still in circulation, provided that they do not exceed the sum of Fifty Thousand Pounds Sterling, and Issue Certificates for the Amount bearing an Interest of three per cent. per annum payable half yearly, which Certificate shall be in force so long as the Districts of Ceylon extending from Matura to Chilaw shall be in possession of the English and no longer. Should these Districts be restored to the Dutch the responsibility of payment will necessarily revert to them, in which event the Original Notes of the Dutch Government shall be restored to the proprietors in exchange for the Certificates granted by the British Government.

The Officers Commanding the British Forces are not authorised to provide for the payment of the arrears due to the Servants of the Company—this must be left to the future determination of His Britannic Majesty. The Copper coin of the Island must find its own value in the course of Exchange.

Answer

Granted, with the exception of Military and Naval Stores, which in every instance must be deemed public property,

Answer

Granted, with the exception of the Ships, which must be deemed public property.

Article 9th

The garrison shall march with the honours of War, pile their arms by command of their own Officers on the Esplanade, and again return to their Barracks—the Officers to keep their side Arms; the Clevangs and Creeses of the Non-Commissioned Officers and Private Malays to be locked up in chests, and after their departure, on being set on shore, to be returned to them.

Article 10th

The European Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Privates of the Battalion of Dutch Troops, and the Detachment of the Wurtenburg Regiment doing duty with it, as well as the Artillery and Seamen, shall be transported in English Ships from hence to Europe or Batavia, according to their choice, with permission to carry along with them their women, children, necessary servants, and baggage—none of the Officers, however, shall be removed from hence against their will, as many of them are married and have their property here, and in case of any of them wishing to depart time shall be allowed them to arrange their affairs to go where they please upon their Parole of Honour, not to serve in this War against England, until they be exchanged.

Article 11th

As there are some Native born French in Garrison they shall be transported to the French Islands if they choose it.

Answer

Granted.

Answer

The European Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Privates as well as the Dutch battalion as of the Regiment of Wurtenburg, the Artillery, Engineers and Marine, must be considered as Prisoners of War, and as such they will be treated with that attention which the British Government has ever shown to those whom the fortune of War has placed in its power. The whole shall be sent to Madras.

Such of the Officers as desire to return to Ceylon, for the reasons mentioned in this Article, will have permission to do so on giving their Parole of Honour not to serve during the present War against the English. Those who may desire to return to Europe shall be permitted to do so on the same conditions, but without any claim on the British Government for Pay or Allowances of any description.

Answer

The French of the Garrison will be considered as Prisoners of War, and sent to Madras.

Article 12th

The Malays that do not choose to remain here shall be transported in English Ships, with their women and children, to the Island of Java.

Answer

The Malay Troops shall be sent from hence with their wives and children to Tuticorin, and from thence by easy marches to Madras. They shall be subsisted while they remain Prisoners, and if not taken into the British Service shall at a convenient time be sent to the Island of Java, at the expense of the British Government.

Article 13th

These transportations shall take place at the expense of the English, and until that time the Military Europeans as well as Malays shall continue to enjoy their Pay and Emoluments as was customary in the Company's Service. None of the Military shall be forced, or even persuaded to enter into the service of His Majesty or the Honourable English Company.

Answer

The Military Officers, Europeans and Natives, shall receive the Pay allowed to them in the Dutch Service. The Non-Commissioned and Privates will be subsisted according to the Regulations of the British Government for Prisoners of War. None shall be forced to enter the service of Great Britain against their consent.

Article 14th

The Sepoys and Moormen in the service shall have the liberty to return to their birthplace.

Answer

Granted.

Article 15th

The Cingalese-Lascars, being soldiers on account of their castes, and the Burghers and Civil Servants by the Laws of the Colony being obliged to take up arms for its defence, it shall not tend to prejudice those people.

Answer

Granted.

Article 16th

Governor Van Angelbeek, the Commander of Galle, Fretz, and all the other Political or Commercial Servants, not required in their official capacities, for the purpose

Answer

Granted, with this exception, that as the Commanders of the British Forces before Colombo are not authorised to grant the subsistence required, this subject

mentioned in Article 3rd, shall have permission to remain as private individuals at Colombo, Galle, or other places on the Island or to betake themselves elsewhere. In the first case a reasonable means of subsistence shall be allowed to each according to his rank; in the last they be permitted to carry their effects along with them without payment of any tax or duty whatever, but then all allowances to cease.

Article 17th

The respective vendue Masters here and at Galle shall be maintained during the collection of the outstanding balances, in right of the preference granted those people by the Company.

Article 18th

The Clergy and other Ecclesiastical Servants shall continue in their functions among the public of the reformed faith in the enjoyment of the same Pay and Emoluments as they had from the Company.

Article 19th

The Citizens and other inhabitants shall be allowed to follow their occupations and enjoy all the liberties and privileges of the subjects of His Majesty.

Article 20th

The Native Servants, those of the Gate and other Departments, as well as of the Mahabadda, shall be continued in their employ during their good behaviour.

Article 21st

The Eastern Princes, Tomogems, and other men of rank here as State Prisoners, and who receive a Monthly Subsistence, shall continue to receive it according to the list which shall be delivered.

must be referred to the decision of the Government of Fort St. George.

Answer

Granted, for balances outstanding.

Answer

Granted under the same exception annexed to the 16th Article.

Answer

Granted.

Answer

Granted, subject to such Regulations as the British Government may hereafter judge necessary.

Answer

Granted, while they remain in Ceylon.

Article 22nd

All Notarial papers, such as Wills, Bills of Purchase and Sale, Obligations, Security Bonds, etc. shall continue in force, and the Registers of them be preserved by Commissaries appointed on both sides for that purpose.

Answer

Granted.

Article 23rd

All Civil suits depending in the Council of Justice shall be decided by the same Council according to Our Laws.

Answer

Granted, but they must be decided in twelve months from this date.

Article 24th

The Deserters who are here shall be pardoned.

Answer

All Deserters from the English Service must be unconditionally given up.

Article 25th

The above Articles of Capitulation shall be faithfully fulfilled and confirmed by the Signature of the Officers Commanding His Majesty's Sea and Land Forces, Colonel James Steuart and Captain Allan Hyde Gardner; and in case of anything appearing obscure, it shall be faithfully cleared up, and if any doubt shall arise it shall be construed for the benefit of the besieged.

Answer

Granted.

Article 26th (by Major Agnew)

The Garrison shall march out agreeable to the 9th Article at ten o'clock tomorrow morning, when the Gate of the Delft shall be delivered to a Detachment of the British Troops. The Governor, Van Anglebeek, will order an Officer to point out the Power Magazine, Posts and Public Stores, that Guards may be placed for their security and the preservation of the Garrison.

Done in Colombo this 15th day of February, 1796.

J. G. Van Anglebeek.
P. A. Agnew.
Adjutant-General.
Approved and confirmed,
J. Stuart.
A. H. Gardner.

REFLECTIONS ON FORTS AND FORTRESSES IN CEYLON

The maritime belt of Ceylon has been continuously occupied by European races for over four centuries. The early efforts of these rival nations to monopolise and control this sea-girt land belong to pages of history. But the tangible memorials which help us to vividly visualise the more salient features of these epics of early pioneering are the grey and picturesque strongholds which stud some of our wind-swept bays and peaceful harbours, and the four square granite walls guarding the passes which gave access from the central mountain regions to the low-land terrain.

Some of these old forts and fortresses are in a fair state of preservation. Others, in more ruinous condition reward such efforts as may be made to trace them under mantles of low-jungle and thorny scrub. Many have been diverted in modern times to use.

Nevertheless, one and all of these memorials are sufficiently intriguing to an imagination which can picture the struggles and sufferings of men in past centuries. They are storied heritages to those who would glimpse the diplomacy, the drama, the tragedy—call it what you will, which lend glamour to achievements in the days of sail and elementary fire-arms.

It is indeed difficult today to picture Colombo as a grim and picturesque stronghold, surrounded by ramparts and a moat, where in the near past tier upon tier of threatening guns pointed out to sea and also commanded the land approach. In 1518, the Portuguese, with the vast continent of India open to them, and the rich and beautiful Ceylon directly in their path, began the long story of efforts by European nations to hold Colombo against land and sea attack by erecting a fort where today the shipping from East and West meet. It stood at the point where the modern breakwater begins and was a walled-in structure, triangular in shape, sufficiently strong to withstand Sinhalese batteries and the charge of elephants.

The more modern fortifications erected after the Dutch captured Colombo were so designed as to turn to the utmost advantage the natural strength of the position, lying as it did between the lake on one side and the rock line of the coast on the other. What remained of the Portuguese fortress, together with the Dutch bastions and counter-scraps, fusse-brayes and ravelins, which lent support to the claim that Colombo was the best fortified position in the whole island, have all gone to make the fort of today more spacious, breezy and healthful.

The old main gate—now the Fort Police Station—affords the best idea at the present time of the Dutch fortifications. The old moat, the draw bridge and tally port are mere memories in a more spacious Colombo. But behind Queen's House, there are yet other remnants of what once formed the fortress walls, and Enkhuyzen and Leydon Bastion lying in unfrequented recesses savour to this day of old mystery, and conjure visions of bloodshed, carnage and heroic deeds during the single vain attempt made by a beleaguering army to break down these sturdy battlements.

Very singularly one of the last portions of the old Dutch fortifications within the fort to be demolished was an old case-mated powder magazine. Tradition recalls it by a weird tale of dark tragedy.

When the Dutch forces had for weary months made efforts to reduce the Fort of Colombo, a deserter from the Portuguese camp offered to lead them to a part of the works which had been carelessly defended. But the Nemesis, which sooner or later overtakes all traitors, was preparing his doom. After the capitulation of the fortress, and when something like order had been restored, the Dutch Commander harangued him for having betrayed his countrymen, and as a warning to his own men sentenced the Portuguese to be bricked up on top of the powder magazine. He was accordingly taken there, placed in a vault with a loaf of bread and a bottle of wine beside him and was immured alive.

Negombo and Chilaw, Kalutara, Galle and Matara were fortified from early times both by the Portuguese and the Dutch. Apart from the reason that the western and southern maritime belt was exposed to perpetual incursion from the Sinhalese, these fortresses were erected from the more prudential consideration that they commanded the best cinnamon producing districts. The fortresses at Batticaloa and Trincomalee served little purpose in the interests of commerce, and were in the ordinary sense of the term maintained for strategic ends.

The battlements at Jaffna and the picturesque fort off Kayts commanded the Vanni, from where the Dutch procured most of the elephants which in their estimation came next in importance to cinnamon, and the forts of Mannar, Aripo, Kalpitiya and Puttalam overlooked a dreary aspect presented by a long sweep of desolate shore to which nevertheless, from time immemorial, mariners and merchants, adventurers and thieves were lured by the precious pearls in the neighbouring shallow seas.

Much might be told recalling the stirring scenes which all these battered battlements have witnessed. But it is the more poignant story of the smaller and lesser known forts in the interior which I would have you know.

In the hinderland of the Giruwa, Pattu, a little over twenty miles by road from Tangalle, there are the remains of a Dutch out-post called Katuwana Fort. It commands a rugged pathway from the foot-hills to the low-lands. Time was, when trouble brewed in these foot-hills and mysterious plots fermented, when bands of insurgents swarmed down the pathway to harass and torment the Government which had spread its organisation over the lowlands.

And so, the story of Katuwana Fort as it might well be, is a grim story of tragedy. One day, when the feelings between the Sinhalese and the Dutch ran high and waxed furious, the enemy in great force marched against Katuwana. They erected a battery and mounted four guns which they fired continuously for two days at the Fort. They were treated in turn to grapeshot and bullets from within the walls. But the odds were all against the gallant band of defenders, thirty in number. On the third day a white flag fluttered from one of the two bastions, the advance guard of the beleaguering forces found the gates thrown open. Flushed with victory they joined the main body and rushed in. The buildings within the Fort were destroyed. Everything of use, including the artillery, was removed. The defenders were ranged out before them, and one by one they were taken to the jungles and shot dead. Six Javanese and a young piper and drummer were spared this fate but were led away captives.

If you wander over Katuwana Fort today, you will find that giant trees have grown on its ramparts, and that their roots hold the massive slabs of granite in iron grip and fantastic disorder. And while a scene of desolation within the walls helps imagination to re-construct this story, the rugged mountain-side, still the same, hides those regions where trouble brewed and mysterious plots fermented.

About 15 years ago, the Government sited a cottage hospital almost on the ruins of this fort. Contractors used the stones from its walls to erect the building. The Government of today, has sought to proclaim the fort an object of historical interest.

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Sitawaka, now virtually merged into the modern Avissawella, recalls one aspect of its many vicissitudes in the ruins of three forts. The Portuguese built one on the top of a low hill which has since suited itself to the name "Belum Kanda" or "the look out hill". The Dutch engineers, more skilled in making the most of sites well adapted by nature, selected a spot on rocky ground nearer the left bank of the Sitawaka Oya. It had four bastions called Rycloff, Louisa, Colombo and Gala each of them mounted with two pieces of large cannon. The British had a cantonment on the hill now occupied by the Police Magistrate's bungalow.

Both the Portuguese and the Dutch had no more than a precarious hold over the old road to Kandy passing from Avissawella through the Four and Three Korales. Consequently, most of the forts planted on this route, with one or two exceptions, date to a period preceding the occupation of the Kandyan Provinces by the British.

Ruwanwella Fort, of high importance since it commanded the water communication between Colombo and the interior, has been now transformed into a Rest House. How impossible it is to imagine as one lolls there today in luxury, that on the banks of the river flowing by the fort, a battle was fought attended with considerable slaughter, which decided the fate of the campaign against the Kandyan King. And how much less possible to believe that just a little over a century ago, sick and wounded carried from the forts in the interior, were floated down the river to Colombo in boats.

Arandara, twelve miles from Ruwanwella along the Pindeniya road, an unfamiliar name today, was apparently the centre of an important neighbourhood in the past. The vagaries of weather have all but effaced the outline of the fort which stood here on the crest of a hill. The Portuguese occupied it as an out-post, the Dutch effected improvements and built a very strong redoubt within the old Portuguese fortifications only to see it fall to Raja Singha with little effort. Even so late as 1830, the British manned it with a few armed Lascarens and a corporal. To this day the village populace hold the hill top where this fort stood in superstitious reverence, or in wholesome fear believing it to be haunted by the spirits of soldiers who lost their lives at the spot.

An earthwork entrenchment still clearly discernible at Hettimulla, three miles from Kegalle, recalls the site of a British cantonment. The cannon which is conspicuously displayed in front of the Kegalle Court House was removed from this post.

The next link in the chain is Fort King, a military post at Attapitiya, named after Captain King who planned and superintended the erection. The outline of its escarpment may be traced in a garden on the right bank of the Maha Oya, four miles down the Mawanella-Aranaike Road. For many years in early British times this was the station of the Agent of Government for the District. After the military were withdrawn the Civil Agent moved his headquarters first to Utuwankanda and finally to Kegalle.

Amunupura, twelve miles from Kandy, perched on the summit of a precipitous hill two thousand feet above the level of the sea, was the most far-flung British outpost on the old road to Kandy. Between Fort King and Amunupura, the path winds its way over one range of hills after another to eventually traverse the steep side of Balana Kanda.

It must necessarily be left to those who have an intimate knowledge of this stretch of rugged country—to those who have endured the shattering power of a tropical sun in these steamy foot hills, to picture the awful sufferings of those old pioneers who marched up these defiles during the Kandyan regime. The luxury of khaki cotton clothing and sun-helmets was unknown. It was the day of woollen trousers and heavy coats, of white drill covers over "shako" or foraging caps; and nearly always of surprise attacks by a hostile element who were acquainted with every feature of the country.

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Scattered over the country north and west of Kandy there were forts at Dambadeniya, Kurunegala, Nalanda and Panagama, all of them the usual type of refuge erected in early British times to hold up a line of communication. Panagama, more generally called Fort Mac Dowall after the General who was the first to fly the British flag over Kandy, was abandoned under the most tragic circumstances. This out-post eighteen miles north of Kandy was held by Captain Madge and a small detachment. Perhaps this small band was the first to be apprised of the surprise attack on the garrison of Kandy by the armed force of thousands of Kandyans which had swept down from surrounding hills and assailed Major Davie's troops. May be they had heard how Major Davie was taken captive, how his soldiers were persuaded to give up their arms, how the Malays were made prisoners, and how the British officers and men were led two by two into a hollow out of sight of their comrades—one only escaping to tell the fate of his companions.

Inflamed by this bloody triumph, conscious of the impregnability of their natural defences, the Kandyans were sweeping down on the smaller posts. Little wonder, Captain Madge, spiked his gun, abandoned his sick, and with the greatest difficulty succeeded in bringing off his men to Trincomalie.

It was in the face of this blast that the other forts in the neighbourhood were also for a time evacuated. In the briefest space not one British soldier was left in the Kandyan territory. Retribution was not exacted until twelve years had elapsed.

The year 1817 saw the last great occasion when the British forces were arrayed in hostility in the Kandyan Kingdom. On this occasion many notable forts were erected in the broken country which dropped from the Nuwara-Eliya mountain-ranges, and were scattered over the hinter-land of Uva.

The fort at Maturata, on the one side of the Nuwara Eliya ledge, and Fort Mac Donald on the other, are tangible records of protracted guerilla warfare conducted on this occasion from isolated military posts.

A grass covered hill-top of gentle ascent near the site where Fort Mac Donald was later erected, is pointed by village traditionalists to this day as the venue of a stirring event during the insurrection.

They say, that on this exposed height, Lieut-Colonel Mac Donald with a party composed of sixty rank and file, repelled the attacks of seven or eight thousand Kandyans who continued under the leadership of the Chief Keppitipola to assail them for eight days.

By way of commemorating this gallant stand, the Commander of the forces was pleased to name the post Fort Mac Donald. It is situated in the village Paranagama and one of the old buildings which still stands within the battered and over-grown remnants or outer walls is used as a Circuit Bungalow, and gives shelter to those who may happen to wander over this roadless region.

The parapet of stone and earthwork standing out on the open patnas off the summit of Ettampitiya pass on the old road from Welimada to Badulla is all that is left of a primary post called the Fort of Himbleatawela. At Kalupahana, just off the 100th mile-stone on the road from Colombo to Haputale, the broken sections of a quadrangular wall of stone remain as a typical example of the type of rampart which replaced hedges, rifle-pits and other temporary breastworks in this campaign of early British times.

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And with so much told, we wander into the fever-laden plains of Bintenna where there are yet more of these relics which unfold a lamentable story of the toll paid to an insalubrious climate where disease was certain and fatal.

There were forts at Buttala, Alupota and Kotabowa; the last mentioned consisted of a low breastwork with a ditch inside, and was situated on a low plain skirting the village. There are few drearier and more desolate places in Ceylon than this far-flung region. Mingle with this such conditions as imply that the quarters of the officers and men were made of a framework of sticks and roofed in paddy straw, that the garrison was at one period reduced to live on paddy which they themselves were compelled to unhusk, and you have its more poignant story.

Of two hundred and fifty European troops in the vicinity of this fort between the 11th of July, 1818 and the 20th of October in the same year only two escaped disease, and of those attacked by the endemic fever, two hundred died, including five officers.

There are perhaps many pleasanter avenues for relaxation than those leading to rambles over the old forts and fortresses of Ceylon. Nevertheless, no one who will blend the story with the silent majesty of these vestiges will need to associate boredom with a visit to any of these historic spots.

GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF EDEMA OF CEYLON

(Compiled by Mr. F. H. de Vos in 1916, revised by
Mr. D. V. Altendorff in 1953).

I

Johannes Elias Edema of Leeuwarden, Quarter-Master of the sloop "Rudolphina Dorothea", came out to Ceylon in the year 1762 in the ship "Voorland", married:

- (a) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 5th July 1771, Anna Helena de Hoen.
- (b) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 31st July 1774, Maria Elizabeth Engelbert.

Of the first marriage, he had

- 1 Anna Elizabeth, baptised 16th August 1772.

Of the second marriage, he had—

- 2 Elias Godfried, baptised 31st May 1777.
- 3 Johannes, baptised 21st February 1779.
- 4 Wilhelmina Gertruida, baptised 1st August 1784, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 12th January 1804, Andreas Kern of Musenheim, widower of Anna Maria de Waas.
- 5 Johanna Minke, baptised 18th February 1787, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 23rd February 1806, Gabriel Antoni Arme Geopstort of Amsterdam.
- 6 Olke, who follows under II.

II

Olke Edema, Captain of the Government ship "Maria", baptised 31st January 1790, married at Colombo, 14th February 1814, Sophia Maria Mercier, born 26th September 1784, daughter of Jacques Mercier of Versailles in France, and Maria Francoise Bongard.

He had by her—

- 1 George William, who follows under III.

III

George William Edema, Advocate, Registrar of Lands, Kandy, born, 24th June 1816, married in St. Paul's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 20th January 1840, Sophia Matilda Foulstone, born 20th March 1820, daughter of John Foulstone, Captain in the Ceylon Rifle Regiment, and Helena Herft. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLII, page 165).

He had by her—

- 1 Rosalie, born 8th June 1841, married Edward Thwaites.
- 2 Zelia, born 9th May 1843, married in Holy Trinity Church Colombo, 24th December 1866, George Frederick Muller.
- 3 Wilfred Alaric, who follows under IV.
- 4 Charles Ralph, born 26th July 1849, died 1st June 1850.
- 5 Edith Grace, born 4th December 1851, died 29th March 1906.
- 6 Henry Ernest, born 9th September 1853.
- 7 Evaline Valentina Anna, born 20th August 1856.
- 8 Sophia Adelaide Blanche, born 25th May 1858, married :
(a) Benjamin Alexander Hanson.
(b) Arthur Chambers.
- 9 George William.
- 10 William.
- 11 Edgar.

IV

Wilfred Alaric Edema, born 19th August 1847, died 3rd September 1893, married at Gampola, 27th December 1877, Agnes Elizabeth Newman, born 2nd April 1857, daughter of Joseph Newman and Anna Elizabeth (Nancy) Andree. (D.B.U. Journal. Vol. XL, page 49).

He had by her—

- 1 Winifred Alice, born 14th July 1878, married Edmund Arthur Rosemale Cocq, born 12th March 1868, died 14th October 1914, son of Frederick Rosemale Cocq, and Susanna Maria Adriana Hansen. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XIV, pages 21 and 22).
- 2 Ellen Rachel, born 18th January 1888, married :
(a) Owen Julian Henry Nicholas, born 31st October 1872, son of Samuel Nicholas, Colonial Chaplain, and Lucilla Jemima Roosmale Cocq. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XIV, page 20.)
(b) William Gregory McCarthy, A.M.I.C.E., District Engineer, Public Works Department, born 5th September 1880, son of Edward Charles McCarthy and Susette Elizabeth Woodward.
- 3 Wilfred Olke, who follows under V.
- 4 Ernest Foulstone, born 17th October 1883, died 26th July 1916 of wounds received when serving in France in the Rifle Brigade Expeditionary Force in the Great War, 1914—1918. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XIV, page 4).
- 5 Leonard Alaric, who follows under VI.
- 6 Katherine Jane, born 12th December 1885.
- 7 Frederick William.
- 8 Ruth Agnes, born 2nd February 1890.
- 9 Albert Edward, born 1st July 1891.
- 10 Frank Newman, born 13th December 1892.

V

Wilfred Olke Edema, born 22nd September 1881, died 20th September 1946, married in St. Luke's Church, Borella, 14th May 1906, Nina Lorenz Andree, born 3rd July 1882, died 25th October 1932. daughter of Peter Gerard Andree and Lydia Lewis. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XI, page 55.)

He had by her—

- 1 Winifred Margaret, born 18th February 1907, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Regent Street, Colombo 22nd February 1936, Roy Wells, born 16th July 1902, son of Joseph Wells and Lydia Augusta Pereira.
- 2 Wilfred Gerald, who follows under VII.
- 3 Owen Ernest, born 8th March 1915.

VI

Leonard Alaric Edema, born 28th November 1884, married:

- (a) In the Baptist Church, Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo 28th July 1907, Ruth Edna Wood, born 5th July 1885, died 19th November 1913, daughter of Wentworth Vivian Wood and Lydia Pate.
- (b) In St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya, 27th April 1915, Alice Gertrude Ouida Ferdinands, born 5th June 1883, daughter of Charles Buller Ferdinands and Alice Prins. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XL, page 11).

Of the first marriage, he had

- 1 Ruth Edna, born 18th April 1909, married in Christ Church, Dehiwala, 6th June 1938, Douglas Charles Taylor, born 10th December 1910, died 14th June 1946, son of Henry Arthur Taylor and Eva Lovejoy.
- 2 Daisy Ann, born 18th August 1910, married in Christ Church Cathedral, Colombo, 28th June 1941, Arthur Collingwood Rudolphus, born 12th May 1914, son of James Rudolphus and Jessie Adeline Batcho.
- 3 Leonard Alaric, born 7th September 1912.

Of the second marriage, he had—

- 4 Noreen Gertrude, born 12th February 1916, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 30th December 1947, Rienzi Lawrence Livera, born 3rd May 1916, son of Lawrence Melville Livera and Stella Ruth Nicholas.
- 5 Patrick Manning, born 13th September 1918, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya, 25th March 1940, Clarice Lilian Burby, born 16th May 1912, daughter of Daniel George Burby and Lilian Beatrice Herft. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLII, page 170).

- 6 Kathleen Rachael, born 9th December 1917, married in Keswick Mission House, Kollupitiya, 3rd January 1948, Percival Ernest Toussaint, born 8th October 1922, son of Francis George Toussaint and Myra Alice Ebell. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IV, page 41, and Vol. XXX, page 14).

VII

Wilfred Gerald Edema, born 4th October 1908, married in the Methodist Church, Kollupitiya, 22nd December 1930, Lucille Janet Willenberg, born 13th September 1906, daughter of Philip Edward Willenberg and Lucille Frances Carron. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVIII, page 135, and Vol. XXXVII, page 32.) He had by her—

- 1 Olke Gerald, born 31st December 1938.

NOTES :—Captain John Foulstone, referred to in section III, was Ensign in the Caffre Corps in 1805, and Lieutenant in the 2nd Ceylon Regiment. He was appointed to command at Hambantota on 23rd December 1805, Later, he was in the 1st Ceylon Regiment and in the Ceylon Rifles. He was gazetted from the half-pay of the Ceylon Rifles to the 63rd Regiment, and left Ceylon to join that Regiment in Bengal in 1832. In 1846, he "had not been heard of for ten years". He married in St. Peter's Church, Colombo, on 1st September 1814, Helena Herft, daughter of Jacob Fredrik Herft of Hungary. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLII, page 165).

2. William Gregory McCarthy, referred to in section IV, 2, (b), first married in St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya, 2nd January 1915, Helen Grace (Nellie) da Silva widow of Aelian Arthur Staples, and daughter of Richard da Silva and Selina Maria Staples. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLIII, page 166.)

GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF REDLICH OF CEYLON.

(Compiled by Mr. F. H. de Vos in 1916; revised by
Mr. D. V. Attendorff, in 1953)

I

Johann Christiaan Redlich of Strelitz (Mecklenburg) married
Johanna Classina de Jong, and he had by her—

- 1 William Francis, who follows under II.
- 2 Johanna Adriana Charlotta, born 19th April 1807, baptised
30th September 1810,
- 3 Frederick James married Charlotte Grenier, born 15th July
1814, died 3rd January 1835, daughter of Jean Francois
Grenier and Charlotta Pietersz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLII,
page 23).
- 4 Charlotta Frederica married at Trincomalee by Governor's
licence No. 836, dated 24th February 1827, John Hunter.

II

William Francis Redlich, Proctor, born 19th April 1804, married:

(a) Josepha Frederica Grenier, born 2nd June 1819, died
3rd February 1837, daughter of Jean Francois Grenier
and Charlotta Pietersz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLII,
page 23).

(b) Marianne Frederica Scheultsz.

Of the second marriage, he had—

- 1 Marianne Amelia, died 27th June 1907, married in 1862,
Frederick Edward Grenier, born 10th February 1836, son of
William Jacob Grenier and Susan Ann de Wolf. (D.B.U.
Journal, Vol. XLII, pages 23 and 25).
- 2 Harriet married Charles Alexander Stephens, born 11th
August 1857, died 9th March 1931, son of Charles Stephens
and Margaret Maartensz. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII,
page 39).
- 3 Agnes married.....Brace.
- 4 Anne marriedCadenski.
- 5 Alwynne Samuel Schultsz, who follows under III.
- 6 Emma married.....Hunter.
- 7 Arthur
- 8 William Francis, who follows under IV.
- 9 Frederick James, who follows under V.

III

Alwynne Samuel Schultsz Redlich, born 4th May 1848, died 9th
January 1905, married in St. John's Church, Chundukuli, 22nd March
1871, Evelyn Harriet Speldewinde, born 1st April 1850, died 30th
December 1931, daughter of Henry Fredrick Speldewinde and Hen-
rietta Wilhelmina Grenier. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII, page 74,
and Vol. XLII, page 23.) He had by her—

- 1 Mary Harriet Ethel, born 12th August 1872, married in St.
Michael's and All Angel's Church, Colombo 21st August 1905,
Arthur Harris Jansz, born 30th June 1877, son of Joseph
Edward Jansz and Charlotte Camilla Grenier. (D.B.U. Journal,
Vol. XXIV, page 140, and Vol. XLII, page 24).
- 2 Bertha Daisy, born 1st September 1877, married in Holy
Trinity Church, Colombo, 6th September 1899, William
Hutton Gregory da Silva, born 13th July 1878, died 17th
January 1945, son of Severinus Benedictus (Richard) da Silva
and Selina Maria McCarthy *nee* Staples. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol.
XLIII, pages 165 and 168.)
- 3 Samuel Alwinne Schultsz, born 18th December 1882, died
22nd February 1912.

IV

William Francis Redlich married in Holy Trinity Church,
Colombo, 18th September 1872, Lydia Sophia Kats, born 2nd October
1855, died 20th July 1917, daughter of John Gualterus Kats, Clerk in
Holy Orders, and Isabella Petronella Gratiaen. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol.
VI, page 19.) He had by her—

- 1 William Francis, who follows under VI.
- 2 Christian Leopold, born 28th March 1875, died 11th December
1927, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 1st May
1899, Louisa Susan Marianne Grenier, born 20th July 1865,
died 30th November 1950, daughter of Frederick Edward
Grenier and Marianne Amelia Redlich, referred to in section
II, 1, *supra*, and D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLII, page 25.)
- 3 Herbert Sigismund, born 9th April 1877.
- 4 Alice Lydia, died 11th April 1910, married in St. Michael's
and All Angel's Church, Colombo, 18th September 1902,
Thomas Hamilton Anthonisz, born 2nd July 1864, died 1st
July 1911, widower of Agnes Juliet Matilda Brohier. (D.B.U.
Journal, Vol. XXXI, page 201) and son of Thomas William
Anthonisz and Maria Margaret Swan. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol.
XXVI, page 66 and Vol. XXXIX, pages 149 and 153).
- 5 Angela Schultsz, born 15th July 1887, married in St. Mary's
Church, Bambalapitiya, 6th August 1910, Albanus Ernest de
Zilwa, born 11th December 1885, son of Samuel Sydney de
Zilwa and Mary Assauw.

V

Frederick James Redlich, born at Trincomalee, 24th May 1849, died 6th February 1911, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 8th December 1875, Venetia Margaret Schumacher, daughter of Johannes Gerardus (John Gerard) Schumacher and Arnoldina Amelia Drieberg. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. XXXIV, page 11). He had by her—

- 1 Ruth Julia Winifred, born 28th September 1876.
- 2 Edward Basil, M.A., B.D., (Cantab) F.R.H.S., Canon Theologian of Leicester, Rector of Little Bowden, Market Harborough, London, married and settled in England.
- 3 Vivian Percival, who follows under VII.
- 4 Florence May, married in St. Paul's Church, Pettah, Colombo, 21st July 1910, Justin Ralph Potger, Proctor and Notary Public, born 21st July 1884, son of Barend Ludowyk Potger, Proctor and Notary Public, and Anna Rosella Van Langenberg. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVII, pages 110 and 113, and Vol. XLI, page 59.)
- 5 Noel Stanley, born 18th March 1888, married in St. Pauls' Church, Milagiriya, 18th April 1928, Marion Eileen LaBrooy, born 28th February 1903, daughter of Francis Edwin Theodore LaBrooy, Proctor, and Maud Elizabeth Poulter. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, pages 27 and 74).
- 6 Norman Kingsley, born 18th November 1891, fell in action on 1st July 1916 when serving in France in the 1st Battalion of the 3rd London Rifle Brigade in the Great War 1914—1918.

VI

William Francis Redlich, born 25th July 1873, died 28th April 1931, married in All Saints' Church, Galle, 5th April 1896, Gwendoline Emmeline Marie Stork, born 5th July 1874, died 10th April 1931, daughter of Lawrence Adolphus Stork and Josephine Maria Beling. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIX, page 11, and Vol. XLIII, page 80.) He had by her—

- 1 Gwendoline Esther Maria, born 19th September 1900, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya, 3rd January 1920, Arthur Edward Koch, died 1933, son of Edwin Lawson Koch and Evelyn Maude Eaton. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXV, page 51.)
- 2 Lawrence d'Raymond, who follows under VIII.
- 3 Christobel Marguerite, born 7th October 1909, married in Christ Church, Galkissa, 3rd March 1929, Shelton Douglas Davidson, born 29th December 1899, son of Richard James Davidson, and Amelia Maria Jansz.

VII

Vivian Percival Redlich, Advocate, Ceylon Judicial Service, born 31st March 1881, died 25th November 1931, married in Christ Church, Kurunegala, 7th April 1919, Ina Markus, born 3rd November 1888, died 24th August 1951, daughter of Charles Peter Markus, Proctor and Caroline Evelyn Daniels. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVIII, page 50.) He had by her—

- 1 Jeanne Ina Margaret, born 31st July 1921, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya, 14th June 1944, Ivor Cecil Guy Varney, born 14th October 1922, son of Cecil Herbert Varney, and Muriel Edith Linton Gauder.
- 2 Frederick James, who follows under IX.
- 3 Ruth Muriel, born 15th August 1929.

VIII

Lawrence d'Raymond Redlich, born 25th November 1904, married in St. Michael's and All Angel's Church, Colombo, 9th April 1928, Blanche Helen Frances Davidson, born 18th July 1909, daughter of Richard James Davidson and Amelia Maria Jansz. He had by her—

- 1 Molly Hyacinth Noeline Blanche, born 22nd December 1928.
- 2 Errol Kolberg, born 10th April 1931.
- 3 Walter Wilmhurst, born 28th January 1933.
- 4 Karloff Lindsay, born 22nd December 1934.
- 5 Chrystle Glencora, born 9th September 1938.
- 6 Rosemary Jean, born 8th August 1944.

IX

Frederick James Redlich, born 18th November 1922, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 26th July 1947, Dorothy Merlyn Pereira, born 3rd June 1921, daughter of Edward Durand Pereira and Annie Taylor. He had by her—

- 1 Penelope Ann, born 1st November 1948.
- 2 Wendy Ina Lorraine, born 3rd August 1952.

COLLETTE GENEALOGY**(D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXX, Page 60.)****ADDITION.**

Eunice Esther Collette, referred to in section VIII, item 1 married in the Methodist Church, Wellawatte, 3rd September 1949, Douglas Marc Neil Toussaint, born 19th November 1913, son of Frederick Bernard Toussaint and Rosaline Mary Nell. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. IV, page 40, and Vol. XXXVI, page 122).

D. V. A.

MOLDRICH GENEALOGY**(D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIV, Page 117).****ADDITION.**

Benjamin Augustus Moldrich, referred to in section IX, item 7, born 10th October 1908, married in St. Thomas' Church, Kotte 4th April 1936, Constance Magdalene Holmes, born 5th June 1911, daughter of Austin Charles Holmes and Bella Frances Schokman. He had by her—

- 1 Burton Chalice, born 15th January 1937.
- 2 Christopher Winston Churchill, born 27th December 1938.
- 3 Cuthbert Royce Walker, born 2nd October 1941.
- 4 Augustine Travis Spearham, born 16th April 1944.
- 5 Joseph Lister Allison, born 24th April 1946.

D. V. A.

VANDERSTRAATEN GENEALOGY**(D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLIII, Page 114)****CORRECTION**

In section IX, line 2, for date of marriage of Johan Engelbert Vander Straaten with Sophia Eliza Melchiors, read "14th September 1840.

D. V. A.

PIACHAUD GENEALOGY**(D.B.U. Journal Vol. XLIII Page 170)****CORRECTION.**

In section IX, item 3, for "Jane Francoise David" read "James Francois David"

D. V. A.

A SURGEON TO THE DUTCH EAST INDIA COMPANY IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

In 1677 Christopher Fryke, surgeon and member of a medical family of Ulm, in Wurtemberg, yielding to an overpowering curiosity and desire of travel, left his home and spent the best part of three years travelling in Hungary and Central Europe, until about Christmas, 1679, he found himself in the famous city of Amsterdam. There he applied for the post of surgeon to the Dutch East India Company, and, after examination with twelve other candidates, he was fortunate enough, as he thought, to be one of six chosen, despite his youth. He was so anxious to see the world that, failing an appointment as a surgeon, he would have shipped in almost any capacity. An English translation of a Dutch version of his journal, "A Relation of a Voyage made to the East Indies by Christopher Fryke, one of the Surgeons to the E. India Company, from the Year 1680 to the Year 1686," has been published.

The Dutch Company of the East Indies was at this time at the height of its power and wealth, and altogether overshadowed the English Company, which it had practically ousted from the trade of the Spice Islands and Ceylon. Such a small country as the Netherlands could not, however man all the ships, fill the ranks of the armies and the gaps made by disease and casualties out of its native population. Many foreigners were employed, and the means of recruitment did not differ a great deal from those employed much later by crimps and kidnappers in other lands. But the ship surgeons were important persons, in whom obviously the crews put great confidence, just as the buccaneers did in the West Indies.

Each East Indiaman carried a physician, a surgeon, and a mate who served as barber. The physician's pay was the equivalent of £2 16s. a month, with a subsistence allowance ashore 15s. a month. In 1658 the English Company at Surat were paying to chaplains and surgeons £50 a year, with full board and lodging, and facilities for private trade such as the Dutch did not allow.

Fryke was engaged for the usual five years, and sailed from the Texel on the ship *Ternate* on the last day of May, 1680. He gives interesting details of the discipline and internal economy of the ship. Punishments were cruel. Keel-hauling, running the gauntlet, and nailing the offender's hand to the mast with a knife till he chose to pull it away were some of them.

His ship was wrecked in False Bay, near the Cape of Good Hope, and only 43 out of 343, including Fryke and two other surgeons, came safe to land. He gives an interesting account of the Cape Colony but describes the Hottentots as particularly loathsome savages. He makes no mention of other natives. He arrived at Batavia at the end of

November, six months after leaving the Texel. On arrival he was sent to a fort, for the terms of his engagement bound him to serve on land as well as at sea. Consequently he saw a good deal of fighting at and after the capture of Bantam by the Dutch, and on one occasion he was, so he says, made captain of the ship *Europa*, which had 800 men and three surgeons. Of the attack on Bantam he wrote:

"I went down into the boat with the other surgeons which were about seventy in number upon our vessel, which was attended always by two or three small boats, that were ready in case of any wounded, that they might carry them off to any other place and upon ever so shallow a water."

After the capture of Bantam he was put in charge of the wounded ashore.

"So I took my lodging in the *Chineesen Straet*, where I was very commodiously seated for my business. There were also two assistants with me and three Under-Surgeons, who were lodged in their several quarters, for the better looking after their patients. Those were obliged to come to me ever and anon to give me an account of those they had under their hands, and to fetch the remedies, which were all in my custody, and to take my directions. Only those other necessities, as linen for plasters, Arack, Sack, Olive Oil, and such like were to be fetched from the Steward who had them in keeping; but they were never delivered without I sent a special order under my hand. The number of our sick and wounded was great, and that of the former increased by reason of the Flux, which was very rife amongst them; and some were seized with a lameness in all their limbs; so that we had enough to keep us in employment."

During his engagement to the Company, Fryke saw a great deal of fighting, and travelled to Japan and to Ceylon and most of the Dutch settlements. He gives an interesting account of pearl diving, with and without a diving bell. In one skirmish he was wounded in the leg, and the bullets could not be extracted till after his return to Holland. His account of native cruelty in Java and Sumatra is revolting, but the Dutch reprisals did not lag behind in barbarity. By the time his ship reached Holland his leg was giving him great trouble, so that he had to be carried ashore. He says:

"My pain increasing rather than diminishing, and I growing daily worse, I sent for a Doctor and two Chirurgeons, not willing to trust to my own skill only. And being I was not able to go and receive my money myself, I was obliged to send a person to the *East India* chamber to receive my money and goods by virtue of a letter of Attorney which I gave him. The money that was due to me from the Company did not amount to more than 4 or 500 Ducatoons which was all the fruit of my labours; except some considerable *East India* goods I had brought over on my own account, which I had to sell; But by that time

I had satisfied my Attorney, my Doctor and the two Chirurgeons, and defrayed the rest of my charges, I found my bag very light. My Doctor did not cost me above forty Dutch Guilders: the two Chirurgeons who were two of the most famous artists in the whole city of Amsterdam, had eighty Rixdollars; they had taken out my two bullets and cleared the bone of above twenty splinters, great and small: for my lodging I paid two Rixdollars a week, and had but a very poor accommodation neither. The Apothecary, too, came in with a hideous bill."

He managed at last to get to Cologne, whence he ascended the Rhine and got home at last by Frankfort to the "city where I was born," nine years after he first left it for Vienna. Although he does not say so, we infer that his thirst for adventure and travel was assuaged.

E. M. L.

[The Editor acknowledges having borrowed this article from a back number of the *British Medical Journal*—September, 1931.]

THINGS IN GENERAL

(From a Woman's Standpoint)

BY ATHENA

I wonder if those women who chafe and rebel against the incessant round of "little duties" that make up the sum of the lives of many women whose sphere of usefulness lies chiefly in their homes, ever arrive at an estimate of the value of it all, and make up the grand total of it! If they do, I am sure they would not so often be discouraged by the limitations of these "little duties."

★ ★ ★

The falling details, the petty worries, all count for much in making up the sum total of comfort and happiness, beauty and grace of a well-ordered home. If the woman in the home is not there to see to all the petty details, it would make a vast difference in the atmosphere of the home—a fact alas! but seldom realized until the "home woman" has once for all relinquished her duties, and gone to her well-earned rest. In many of the households the members take their home conditions too much for granted and do not realize the value of these conditions until things are changed.

★ ★ ★

It is on the woman in the home that the health and comfort of the whole household depend. It is in proportion to the amount of attention she gives to the petty details and fretting little duties, that the comfort and well-being of her whole household is assured.

★ ★ ★

It is true that the work of the house-mother is never finished, and oh! how often she is so weary as she sits in the twilight at the close of each busy day enjoying the few moments of rest and refreshment that come at eventide, but she would rather be tired ministering to her loved ones, than have no loved ones dependant on her ministry.

★ ★ ★

A true mother prefers the society of her dear ones to the pleasures of the outside world, though often she is so weary of the manifold tasks that arise in ministering to them. She does not chafe and fret over the limitations that her position as house-mother entails, but rather always tries to remember the compensations she has in the love of those who depend on her care. She regards with grateful appreciation the surrounding advantages which deliver her mind from the pursuit of pleasures which neither satisfy nor give true happiness.

Circumstances are not so essential to happiness as most people imagine, and there are many things we can afford to do without. As somebody said, "The way to be truly rich is not so much to increase our fortunes as to moderate one's desires." How little we value the common blessings within reach of all, the sunshine, the blue sky, the beautiful world around us, the blessed night that brings sleep to weary eyes. If we have health and strength, eye-sight and hearing, we dare not say that life has denied us her best gifts. The common things of life are the best things, and we should cultivate the art of appreciating them.

★ ★ ★

The world is fairly full of people lacking this precious gift of appreciation, and we can be richer than the richest of them if we succeed in cultivating this gift. Of the many compensations that fall to those who are poor in this world's goods I hold first to be joy in labour. This is a satisfaction the rich can never have. It is one of the first blessings of poverty, after all the common blessings of life.

★ ★ ★

Other compensations we have in plenty are good and interesting books, through which we hold communion with lofty intellects, nature's ever varying pageant, the mysteries of dawn, the glories of sunset, are all our wondrous heritage,

★ ★ ★

We are creation's heirs,
The world, the world is ours.

★ ★ ★

Ward Beecher finely says "The world was made for poor men, and therefore the greater part was left out of doors where everybody could enjoy it."

"An affectionate attention to what we possess makes us rich" says the poet-philosopher Goethe. Let us then try to realize the wealth of our heritage in this beautiful world.

Much of the misery of straitened means is due to discontent and laziness among women. The woman is the home, and the home life is made or marred by the woman.

We women ought to resolve to look with contempt on meaningless finery. I can understand that no woman wishes to look dowdy, and no woman of taste and refinement cares to be seen in garments of hideous cut and glaring colours. Colours are beautiful in themselves and look loveliest in flower-beds. I wish some women would outgrow their passion for decking themselves in all the colours of the rainbow.

★ ★ ★

Plain pretty things neatly made, with a due regard for the family purse will give more satisfaction than gorgeous silks and satins of flaring colours.

We are sometimes inclined to despise our surroundings, but surely we can try to glorify them if we persevere. I have read somewhere that the dignity of a noble woman in a poor home is like the grace of God in the faces of the humble. We can all try to illumine our homes in a like manner, yet we long for opportunities to do great things, neglecting the opportunities that lie directly before us, and we cherish a bitterness over being poor! Let us resolve to lift our spirits to the light of understanding and then we will touch our homely tasks with the hand of genius! The plainer the surroundings the more chance to shine. Let us fill our world with beautiful and pleasant things, not things that cost money, but priceless things that can just be gained by making good resolutions—and keeping them.

★ ★ ★

The happiest heart that ever beat
Was in some quiet breast,
That found the common daylight sweet
And left to Heaven the rest.

★ ★ ★

There was once an old saying amongst the Jews, that scandal killed three people. It killed first the person who started it, next the person who listened to it, and finally the victim of it. Let us see if this is really so.

★ ★ ★

It seems an exaggerated thing to say that a scandalous tongue murders its owner, in a literal sense, but there is something in it. A woman may die, but the worst and lowest part of her may remain very much alive long after the best and highest part has died figuratively.

★ ★ ★

To say a thing which is not true about anybody else is the surest way to destroy one's self-respect, especially if it is maliciously done. It makes one a self-conscious liar. There can be no doubt that whoever starts using this hateful weapon kills all the womanliness within her, and becomes one of the most degraded and poisonous of things.

Deliberate malignant scandal-mongers are, thank heaven, few in number, and, when they are found out are generally given short shrift in society, but there is a great deal of careless gossiping going on which is almost as harmful. And it also tends to destroy all that is best in the loose and gossipy talker. It creates a tendency to slur over the truth about things, an unwholesome desire to get credit at the expense of exactness, till the gossip who begins by being merely an irresponsible talker ends by becoming incapable of plain truth. This is what is meant by the starter of scandal being killed.

This is a fault annoyance can easily fall into, and we may well be anxious to avoid being drawn into it ourselves. The mere gift for telling a pleasant story may draw us into it. There are some dangerous people who cannot resist making you say, when they repeat the tale, something that seems to fit handily into it, with the result that the queerest things are put into your story, and you are surprised to hear afterwards the astounding things you have said.

★ ★ ★

Probably the only way to avoid falling into this error is to learn to really and sincerely think well of everybody. When one has once acquired the rather difficult habit of looking for the best in everyone they need not be afraid of saying the wrong thing. To those who always think kindly evil-speaking becomes impossible.

★ ★ ★

But the Jewish proverb has it that the second person scandal kills is the one who listens to it. Now there is some trouble in this statement too, for whoever listens to poisonous stories and loves them, kills all honour within herself. There are people who are always only too willing to catch up any unpleasant story and believe the worst of anybody. There is not much worth killing in people of this sort, but what there is soon dies. As to the better sort who are not malicious but naturally suspicious, their habit of listening to rumours will surely kill all joy in life for them, and will lose them all their friendships.

★ ★ ★

Have we not friends who say vexatious things sometimes? And when this vexatious thing is repeated by some mischief-making busy-body it sounds ten times worse. "A lie which is half a truth is ever the blackest of lies" as Tennyson rightly says and it is of all lies the most difficult to combat. A real, sensible person at once understands that her absent friend did not mean to say anything unkind but the repeater of the story is sure not to mention the kindly intonation of the voice or the laughing twinkle of the eye that conveys quite a different meaning to the sentence. It requires a wise friend to think it must have been so when the mischievous tongue reports the saying. So that very often the listener loses confidence in her friends, one by one, and her whole character suffers as well as her happiness. It is principally because she grows so morbidly suspicious that she always fancies she detects something injurious in what is spoken. Do you remember the French saying, the fine motto of the order of the Garter, "Honi soit qui mal y pense?" We cannot with impunity indulge in the habit of thinking evil of others without in some way injuring ourselves.

As to the last statement of the Jewish proverb that a scandalous tongue kills the person it attacks, that, of course, depends on whether there are people silly enough to believe in the thing said. Unfortunately some one is almost sure to believe it. No idle word falls to the ground. But bad as it may be, I am sure the most spiteful stories do most of us far less harm than we imagine. It only harms us amongst people of the calibre referred to in the second portion of the Jewish saying amongst those who have already killed the best in themselves and who, therefore, have not the nobility that refuses to believe a slanderous tale. That we do not trouble ourselves about the harm any spiteful tale will do us, amongst people of this stamp goes without saying. "Be thou as pure as ice, as chaste as snow yet thou wilt not escape calumny." If we are sensible we will not trouble ourselves much over any spiteful talk. In any case we cannot altogether avoid it. Scandal and slander are like poisonous microbes we inhale with every breath but if we are healthy and strong we do not fear the microbes, for there is that in our blood which destroys them as fast as they float in, just the same way a healthy mind will destroy all the flying venom of the tongue. A sturdy commonsense alone will dispose easily of most of it. What we have to do is to see that we are not amongst the offenders ourselves. It is alas! very easy to be so. Give an idle word a single minute's start and you will never overtake it all your life. You may contradict that word but you will always be too late and it will have got somewhere still beyond you. It will go on literally for ever, like a stone which has been thrown into the calm surface of some boundless lake, and which makes circles that are ever widening.

★ ★ ★

Unthought of words fall from us all and even though we should school ourselves to the silence that is golden still we cannot prevent the glances and the gestures which convey even more than the spoken words.

★ ★ ★

Our only escape from this dangerous and poisonous thing is to train ourselves to think wholesomely and kindly about everybody. "to speak no slander, no, nor listen to it." Let us take the advice given by the great Apostle to the people of Philippi, "Whatsoever things are true, honourable, just, lovely, and gracious; if there be any virtue, or if there be any praise, think on these things."

Is this not a splendid antidote for all the poisons administered by scandalous tongues.

NOTES ON CURRENT TOPICS

Founder's Day, 1953:

A large assembly of members and their friends commemorated Founder's Day on the 24th of October at the Union Hall. The value of having the younger folk of the Community at such functions does not need to be emphasised and it was especially pleasing to see them in such numbers.

The proceedings opened with some vocal, musical and variety items including displays of dancing by a group of young artistes. The manner in which the performances were received was testimony both to their quality and to the pleasure they gave the audience.

The following address was delivered by the President of the Union at the conclusion of the short concert:—

The very expressive name of Founder's Day has been given to this annual foregathering. On this day—the anniversary of his birthday—we pay our tribute of gratitude to Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, for his great services to us.

You do not need to be reminded today of what Mr. Anthonisz of revered memory has done, but I would fain repeat to you the words in which he used to impress on the Community the ethical code on which the corner stones of the Union had been laid.

"The Dutch Burgher Union" he said, "makes no enemies and gives offence to none. Our aims and objects are confined to the betterment of ourselves. We want our sons and daughters to grow up worthy of the traditions of their ancestors. These aspirations call for no resentment or hard words from others. We unite in order to foster fellowship and to bring about closer associations amongst members. This fellowship calls for service between the two parts, rich and poor. Let us realise that this is our duty."

Thus, Ladies and Gentlemen, does one generation from the security of a well-ordered past speak to generations living in the present; tormented by doubts, bewildered by change, and paralysed by indecision.

How can I, as one who has grown old with the Union and experienced the weight of change, most forcefully impress the import of the ideals cherished 45 years ago, on the minds of the young members of the Community schooled in a different age of thought? I see that task beset with many perplexities but I also see a light behind the dark clouds.

It cannot be denied that you younger folk have far more opportunities for learning to respect, the point of view of the other communities and people, than those of the older generation ever had. Easier facilities for travel to other lands open the door to a sense of internationalism in its widest form. You also have your local youth organisations: such as the Scouts, the Guilds, the Guides, These

institutions have made you good mixers and opened to you the opportunities to learn to respect, to understand, and to take your place among the various races in this Island. It is just these opportunities for being international in your ideas, and of co-mingling with other races and communities, which should and will kindle in your own mind the fuller significance of nationality. There lies the surest way by which you will be stimulated to take pride in your history and traditions and to serve your Community. Thus will you younger folk, I venture to say, find that urge to tune in to the ideals the Dutch Burgher Union stands for.

I do not, in saying this, suggest that there has been any variance, or want of respect and confidence between us and the other communities in the past, but the warning is not out of place in the present trend of affairs, that if we would strengthen our own position we must cement our friendship with our co-patriots in this land.

Consequently, despite doubt and perplexity, it is an undoubted message of courage which I leave this evening with the older generation. To the younger members of the Community, and the generations to come, I would say, make the most of your wider outlook, not forgetting those worthy objects of union and co-operation which the words I have echoed from the past pledge you to accomplish.

St. Nikolaas Day, 1953

The popular Children's Fete which is a feature of the celebrations of St. Nikolaas day, was held at the Union Hall on the 5th of December. It was an occasion of much entertainment to the large gathering present. A merry-go-round, a switch-back and pony rides provided the little folk with early evening enjoyment. Sintertelaas attended by six bearers carrying big bags on their backs and birchrods in their hands arrived in the course of the evening. This good Bishop went from child to child putting them questions, much to the delight of the little folk. The role of Sintertelaas was taken by Mr Van Alpen.

This done, the toys were distributed to the children assembled, at which several ladies assisted. A conjurer next took over the entertainment. Both, the thrills he provided, and his patter evoked amazement, and laughter. Young and old folk alike seemed to wish the performance was very much prolonged.

The children's fete was followed by a dance, in which all the teen and middle-agers participated with eagerness. The thanks of all who joined to make the evening's entertainment a success, are due in great measure to the members who readily contributed towards the expenses, and to Mr. C. L. H. Paulusz, the Secretary of the Union. The efficient and energetic Entertainment Committee were responsible for the successful dance. Special mention must be made of the services rendered by Mr. C. L. Speldewinde, the Secretary of this Committee.

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Books

It has been said that in looking back upon the past as in looking down upon the dead, one must be always just. The elaborate notes which Major R. Raven Hart has added to his translations from Dutch writings of the 17th century* for the National Museums of Ceylon undeniably play that part to perfection.

The four travelogues dealt with by the author afford vivid pictures of the life and times in the service of the United Dutch East India Company to which they refer. Since three of the four narratives are in the form of *Darium* or day-book, the reader gets a many sided view at once of the conditions of life which were within the experience of men who held the forts, and fought the wars of the Company, and also of the delightfully quaint impressions of the habits and customs of the people of this country, as well of its plant and animal life.

The translator, in his Preface to the volume, draws pertinent notice to the curious fact that all the really vital accounts of life in Dutch Ceylon were written by Germans who had taken service in the United Dutch Company. Few readers will gainsay the correctness of this statement, for without doubt, there can be no pleasanter or more profitable way of looking down on vistas of social history in the Dutch period than by glancing down the corridors of time so vividly emphasised by the writings reproduced in the volume which is appropriately titled: "Germans in Dutch Ceylon".

The first of these German writers whose works have been selected for translation is Behr. He specialises in picturing the conditions of life on board ships bound for the East under the flag of the Dutch East India Company, and draws on the many aspects of the life of the soldier, his pay and rations, and the dull garrison duties with long intervals between moments of excitement or violent action.

The second work dealt with is by Herport, a line-artist who unfortunately spent more of his service out of Ceylon than in it. The translator selects the illustration which this diarist himself drew as the principal feature of his book. Schweitzer, by far the most diligent writer of the four, is the next in chronological sequence. He has much to say of Ceylon, having served in the maritime fortresses extending from Point Pedro to Galle. His service seems to have also taken him to Japan.

Lastly, there is a short translation from Fryke who made but brief contact with Ceylon in his travels. His narrative is entertaining more in fallacy than fact. As the translator points out he begins by "taking almost word for word from Saar."† In the first paragraph he writes: "we left Batavia with the first fair wind and in five weeks time we

* Vol. I—*Germans in Dutch Ceylon* by Von der Behr (1668), Herport (1669) Schweitzer (1682) and Fryke (1692); Translated with notes by R. Raven-Hart for the Director, National Museums, Ceylon. 141 pages, printed by the Ceylon Government Press. Price Rs 5/-.

† Saar (1647-1657). The sections by Saar dealing with Ceylon appear in the Jnl. R. A. S. (Ceylon) Vol. XI, No. 39, 1889, P. 233 et. seq.

happily arrived before *Columbo*", and then goes on to describe the place of landing. To make the theft more ridiculous, he gives details of the port of Galle as described by Saar, and not of the Colombo of those times.

In a subsequent number of the *Journal*, we shall refer to some extracts from the translations and notes.

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Death of Dr. Lorenz Prins

We regret to record the death of Dr. Lorenz Prins, which occurred in England on the 30th of October, last. Dr. Prins was a past President and was very intimately connected with the Union.

When Mr. R. G. Anthonisz decided to establish the Dutch Burgher Union in 1908, the first person whose aid he sought was Dr. Prins, whose support was useful from many points of view. He already possessed a slight knowledge of Dutch, having been a member of *The Hollandsche Gezelschap*, the predecessor of the Dutch Burgher Union, an Association formed in Ceylon by a few persons for the study of the Dutch Language. He was able to improve his knowledge by serving as one of the Medical Officers in charge of the Boer Camp in Diyatalawa. He had been to Holland and studied the Dutch language. No fitter person could therefore have been found than Dr. Prins. He was present at the Inaugural Meeting held to establish the Union, and his was the first name proposed to carry out the preliminary arrangements for the formation of the Union. He served as Mr. R. G. Anthonisz's main support in the early days and his advice was always to be relied on. One of his earliest literary contributions to the *Journal* was "A Chapter from the Dutch *Lusiad*", and he was later able to collaborate with Mr. J. R. Toussaint, the Editor of the *Journal*, in publishing an English translation of Jacob Haafner's "Journey on Foot through the Island of Ceylon". He served on many of the Standing Committees with much success.

A mark of high honour was paid to him in August 1927 on his departure for leave in England, when he was entertained to a largely attended dinner. Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, in proposing his health, spoke of his deep loyalty to the Union and of the assistance he had been to him personally. In reply, Dr. Prins modestly referred to the part he had played in the formation of the Union. For the first time in the history of the Union, speeches were made in Dutch and Dr. Prins replied to the toast of his health in fluent Dutch. On his return from his holiday, he continued to take the same interest in the Union as he had done before, until the death occurred on the 3rd January 1930 of Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, who had held the office of President for an uninterrupted period of 22 years. By common consent it was agreed that no fitter person could be found to fill the vacancy than Dr. Prins and he was unanimously elected to the office, shortly afterwards, Mr. E. H. Vanderwall who presided at the meeting remarking aptly that "the mantle of Elijah had fallen on Elisha."

How well Dr. Prins justified his selection is only too well known. He took a leading part in every activity of the Union and served a worthy successor to Mr. Anthonisz. His period of office was notable for the emphasis given to the study of Dutch. In due course of time Dr. Prins retired from service in 1932 having risen to the post of Deputy Director of Medical Services, and made his home in England where his family was already settled. Here he lived in quiet retirement, seeing his children well settled in life. He was married to Winifred van Cuylenburg, daughter of Mr. Arthur van Cuylenburg, Inspector of Schools. She predeceased him.

One who was a warm friend of Dr. Prins expressed his appreciation of him in the following terms:—"His high sense of honour saved him from becoming the tool of designing men. His geniality towards men of all stations of life, all races, and all creeds made him one of the most popular citizens, yet no one presumed to take undue liberty with him. When he was described at a General Meeting of the Union as 'a perfect gentleman', everyone felt that the right word had been spoken, and there was no need of any other".