

withdraw. They are also obliged to withdraw at all times on the order of the president, or upon the motion of a member to that effect. Members address the chair standing, and allude to their colleagues by their official designations, or without naming them.

There is a special ordinance for regulating the police of the sittings of council to prevent interruptions, punish disturbances, or false reports of proceedings, and assign penalties for defamation or abuse of a member.

Reports of proceedings and debates are published by the local journals, and are frequently of considerable interest.

The form of government above detailed from official documents, is well suited to the circumstances of the colony, and gives the people a fair amount of representation through the non-official members, who, although nominated by the Governor, are by no means bound thereby to side with the government, or to cease to exercise independence of opinion and action. How far the people themselves are fitted to exercise the right of electing their own representatives, it is not easy to say. As in Lower Canada, the introduction of a foreign element renders it difficult to reconcile adverse interests, and to legislate so as to please all parties. There appeared to me to be rather too strong a leaning to the French interests, although for purposes of conciliation, than is altogether consistent with the maintenance of the British supremacy. While I should deprecate most strongly the remotest approach to class distinctions, or any departure from a proper amount of deference to the feelings, prejudices, and tastes of the inhabitants of foreign descent, it should never be forgotten that the colony is an appendage of the English Crown, owes entire allegiance to Queen Victoria, and has no right whatever to exhibit republican or any other sympathies opposed to the dominant nation. Such sympathizing would be very rudely and rapidly repressed in any part of the French Republic, were it attempted by the aliens living under the protection of her flag, and is a licence which no nation can be expected to grant further than is strictly consistent with the preservation of her own dignity and independence. Hence I conceive it to be a great political error that French law, the French language, or any practice or proceeding opposed to the feelings of the conquerors, should ever have been permitted. The rule of the Romans and of the French themselves shews sufficiently the view of the matter taken by great and enlightened nations. It cannot be compared to the British Empire in India, as in the Mauritius we dispossessed no ancient people with the hereditary claims of ages to the soil, and a religion and civilization of their own, both long anterior to the emancipation of Europe herself from the bondage of ignorance and superstition.

The history of the Mauritius from its early discovery by Pedro de Mascarágnas, in the beginning of the 15th century, to its occupation and subsequent abandonment by the Dutch, and its lengthened colonization and

tenure by the French, down to the capture of the island in 1810 by the power in whose possession it still remains, is full of remarkable and romantic incidents.

Among the most striking of these may be mentioned the able administration of Mahé de La Bourdonnais, one of the most earnest, gifted, successful, and ill-requited governors who ever regulated the destinies of any colony in the universe; the wreck during his administration of the *St. Geran* which, as an episode in the charming tale of *Paul and Virginia*, has obtained a world-wide celebrity; the reproduction on a small scale of some of the atrocities and irregularities of the earliest French Revolution; the connection of the Mauritius with the almost fabulous account of piracy in the East; and the remarkable naval contest of which it was the theatre in the early part of the present century.

Some of the remains of the gallant fight at Grand Port are still to be seen, and are among the interesting objects connected with its history, that I fell in with on the island. The old iron guns that formed the battery on Monkey island, a curious bed of coral raised above the reef and covered with vegetation, are still there,—some guns of the same character are lying near the site of old Grand Port, and the rusty fluke of an old anchor imbedded in the sand, are also existing, relics of the past scenes of contest. Upon mentioning the circumstances on my return to an old Indian officer who was present at the capture of the Mauritius, he stated that he visited the *Néréide* Frigate at the time, and it was ascertained that with the exception of a small gallery near the stern, there was not a space of the extent of a foot, in the hull of the whole ship, that had not been riddled by round shot from the French batteries.

Of the present politics of the island, I shall say nothing, for although all parties are particularly unreserved in the expression of their opinions, it requires a more intimate acquaintance with the detailed history of the various subjects of discussion, than can be formed by hearsay, or without access to the archives of the state, to entitle a visitor to express any positive or trustworthy opinion regarding local matters. One fact, however, I learnt, which I may venture to record, viz: that the colony is in an unexampled state of prosperity, and possesses within itself every essential, if rightly applied, of happiness and contentment.

The official salaries of all classes of public servants in the colonies are lower than in India. The Governor receives £6000 a year; the chief judge £2000; the colonial secretary £1500; the treasurer and paymaster-general £1200; the vice-president and assistant judge of the court of appeal, the procureur, advocate-general and auditor-general £1200 each; the inspector-general of police £1000; the collector of customs £800; and the lower grades of public officers in a corresponding diminishing ratio.

The educational establishments of the Mauritius consist of the Royal College at Port Louis founded in 1791, and several district schools.

The former institution is ruled over by a rector and has a large staff of professors of classics, mathematics, English and French. It is an extensive establishment, appears to be well conducted, and has healthy and ample accommodation for boarders. Notwithstanding the general introduction of the English language in all the official proceedings of the government and courts of justice in 1847, by an order of the Queen in Council, there appears to me to be a leaning to French, as the vernacular language of the country, on the part of the majority of the inhabitants. This is natural enough on their part, but should not be permitted to interfere with the thorough prosecution of English as the paramount language in the college. The patois of the creoles of the lower classes is the most extraordinary imaginable medley of French, English, and Malgaseh, with at times a dash of Hindustani and Malabar. As spoken by the Indian coolies it is the most laughable jargon, and the veriest lingual olla-podrida in the world. Some effort is now making to establish schools for the children of Immigrants, a wise, liberal, and proper proceeding in itself, but from what I heard not unlikely to be mismanaged, and conducted in a very questionable form. If it be intended to render French the chief, if not sole, medium of imparting knowledge, I do not hesitate to denounce it as a most impolitic, foolish, and even improper proceeding. It is no longer the authorized medium of official communication in the colony, would not be of the most remote use to those of the coolies who return to India, and would only tend to perpetuate a mischievous system, that cannot be too strongly deprecated in a British possession.

As the Indian Government is immediately interested in whatever relates to the treatment of the labourers sent from Hindustan, it is to be hoped that no such scheme will be permitted to be entertained. They possess the most effectual of all modes of compelling obedience to their wishes in such matters!

I am bound, however, to confess, and I do so with unmixed satisfaction, that this is the only point on which the most scrupulous could complain of, or object to the treatment of Indian Immigrants in the Mauritius.

All the laws and regulations regarding them are strictly and honestly fulfilled, to an extent that is almost injurious to their employers; they are not over-tasked, are highly paid, and every reasonable want and wish meets with attention. Their wages are regulated by contract of service, and are exclusive of rations, which ordinarily consist of 50lbs of rice, 4lbs of dhol, 4lbs of salt fish, and 1lb of salt monthly. They are generally well-dressed, comfortably housed, and appeared happy and contented. They are, as in India, fanciful and changeable, but their great grievances when enquired into, are usually of the most childish and trifling description.

The following precis of the number of immigrant labourers engaged during the five years mentioned, with their aggregate monthly amount of

wages earned, and the average rate gained by each, will fully bear out my statement.

	No. engaged.	Aggregate wages.	Average.
1846	47,733	£32,994 18 1	14s. 2½
1847	49,638	34,339 10 4	13 10
1848	41,784	25,047 12 3	11 11½
1849	45,284	25,365 0 4	11 . 2½
1850	48,112	28,683 7 4	11 11

A great proportion, if not the chief part of this is spent in the colony, yet a considerable amount finds its way to India, and must be useful to that country. The immediate influence of this wealth is, however, of minor importance compared with the intelligence, freedom from prejudice, knowledge of improved modes of agriculture, and habits of industry brought back by the return coolie to his benighted home. I had frequent opportunities of conversing with many of this class on my voyage back to India, and perceived that there was a shrewdness, spirit of independence, and worldly wisdom about the most intelligent of them, that would never permit them again to submit quietly to the crushing, heartless oppression, and utter selfishness of native zemindars, of whose tender mercies they had acquired a most correct and wholesome estimate.

It would be interesting, and beneficial to the cause it has so much, and so justly at heart, if the Government of the Mauritius would prepare and publish in India, a return of the amount of wealth taken out of the colony by return labourers, the number who had gone back to the island, and the number who had become settlers there, with the nature of their occupations, mode of livelihood, and social condition generally. In my wanderings I fell in with a few who had given up all hope and wish to revisit their native soil; they seemed comfortable and well to do, and spoke in high terms of the country of their adoption. The greatest ambition of an Asiatic is to become a landholder—a lord of the soil—however small the possession which owns him as master. This feeling might be taken advantage of by the local government, and settlements encouraged to a great extent on the waste lands, of which, I believe, there is a considerable area at present uncultivated and unoccupied.

Crimes of a deep dye are not very common in the colony. In the year 1847 seven coolies were tried for murder, of whom four only were convicted. I did not ascertain the history of these cases, but have reason to believe that the majority of such instances would be found to arise from jealousy—a frequent source of vengeance in India, where women are plentiful, and likely to be much aggravated where this ‘*teterrima causa belli*’ is so scarce. In the same year, in the whole possession there were only 522 cases of misdemeanour, in which there were 370 convictions, and 150 acquittals.

From a general tabular statement of condemnations before the court of assizes of Port Louis, for the seventeen years beginning with 1830, and

ending with 1846, published in the Mauritius Mail, an excellent and able monthly statement of all matters of interest connected with the colony, some interesting facts may be gleaned.

The statement is for three distinct periods, that of slavery to the end of January 1835, that of apprenticeship to April 1838, and the subsequent period in which immigration commenced.

<i>Nature of Crimes.</i>	<i>Slavery.</i> 1830—34	<i>Apprentice- ship.</i> 1835—38	<i>Indian immi- gration.</i> 1839—46	<i>Total.</i>
Abduction of minor,	1	..	..	1
Assaults,	5	..	..	5
Assaulting and Wounding,	5	..	..	5
Forgeries,	5	..	..	5
Arson,	4	8	24	36
Homicides, .....	..	4	..	4
Insurrections on Estates,	3	..	..	3
Murders and attempts at murder,	22	..	..	22
Manslaughter,	6	19	59	84
Poisoning,	1	..	..	1
Robberies,	90	171	242	503
Violence to females,	9	2	22	32
Coining false money,	4	..	..	4
Total,				705

The whole population of all colours, classes, creeds, tongues, nations, ages, and sexes in 1846, was 161,089, and the total number of crimes committed in the same year 56, giving a ratio of one criminal for every 2876 $\frac{1}{8}$ individuals, which considering the very large number of coolies and stray waifs in the colony, is very creditable to the morality of the community.

The police of the island is organized upon the English plan originally introduced by Sir Robert Peel, and is, I believe, reputed to be efficient. For such purposes, however, I consider the French military system to be superior to any other for the rapid, certain, and effective manner in which it acts for the repression of disorder, and the apprehension of offenders.

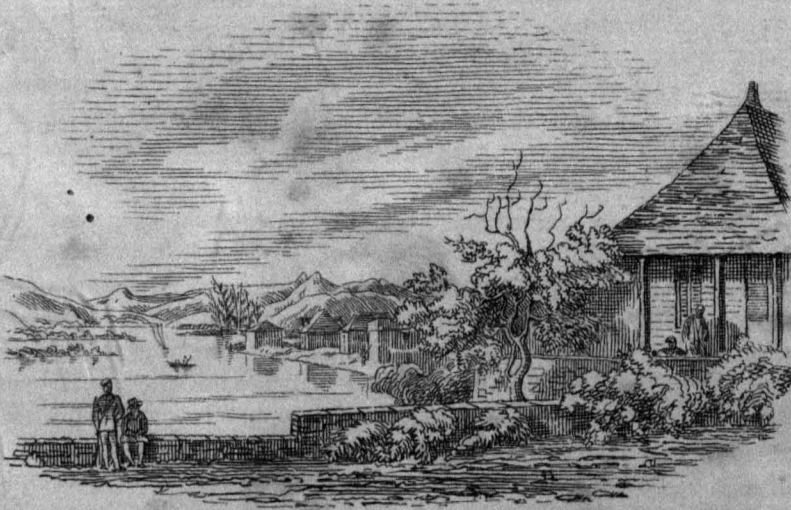
My window at the hotel d'Europe was nearly opposite to the great gate of the jail, whence the prisoners condemned to work on the roads were mustered and marched off at day-break, under the escort of a military guard. The rattling of their chains, and murmur of their many-tongued voices as they were set in movement were in excellent keeping with the gloomy looking prison from which they daily emerged. The "stone jug" of Port Louis is an overgrown, unsightly building, constructed upon the principle of affording the least possible general supervision from any given point. Each department is excellent in itself, and not ill-managed, but the whole is a labyrinth of bad arrangement, such as must render it necessary to employ a larger coercive establishment than would be requisite with a little more at-

tention to design. The work-shops, solitary cells, court-yard for exercise, bathing places and other details of interior economy, were good enough of their kind ; but, on the whole, it was infinitely inferior to the model prison at Colombo in Ceylon.

The military establishments of the island consisted, at the time of my visit, of the 5th Fusiliers at Port Louis, the reserve battalion of the 12th regiment at Grand Port, one company of the Royal Artillery, and half a company of Sappers and Miners. Since that time the 12th has moved back to the Cape. It is at present a major-general's command, and has the ordinary staff establishment attached to it. Head-quarters are at Port Louis, and there are outpost detachments at all points of the island that are accessible through openings in the reefs. Some of the latter are in picturesque positions, but somewhat solitary places of penance for detached subalterns.

The barracks in Port Louis are very ill-placed in a low position at the western end of the town, with stagnant, swampy, filthy puddles and pools in their rear. They are enclosed in an extensive parade ground, and consist of two ranges of stone buildings, which seemed to me to be low in the roof, and ill-adapted for the accommodation of a large body of men. Port Louis is confessedly the hottest place in the island, and the barracks near the base of the signal mountain are in about as hot a position as could have been selected. That the troops are healthy in spite of this, and of the admitted irregularities of the British soldier, is an additional and a strong proof of the salubrity of the climate.

Mahébourg on the windward side of the island is a much prettier and more agreeable quarter.



The station is near the head of the bay of Grand Port, commands a charming prospect of mountains on the opposite side of the bay, is free from marshy and malarious soil in its vicinity, and must be altogether one of the most desirable and healthy places of residence in the colony.

The country around is most picturesque, boating and sea-bathing can be engaged in to an almost unlimited extent in the bay, it contains a hotel, not however, particularly good of its kind, and is in constant communication with the capital. The road from Port Louis to Grand Port is one of the best in the island, and although it is in many places extremely steep, is perfectly practicable for every species of conveyance. An omnibus leaves twice or three times a week, and the charge for an inside place is moderate.

Nearly half way at Eau Coulee and Curepipe—the former place twelve, the latter a little more than fourteen miles from Government house—are two excellent roadside inns, moderate in their charges. The difference of temperature between these places and the capital, is extraordinary and striking. I lived in the latter for three days in the wooden tenement of Mr. Gilbert, an original and most entertaining landlord, who had passed through many phases of life, and was full of quaint and humorous illustrations of his motley career. He was my guide to Mahébourg and the Savanne, and lightened all the disasters of a small dose of a deluge by his unconquerable good humour, and ingenious devices to delude me into the belief of a thorough drenching and repeated sticking in the most tenacious of earthly mud, being entertaining incidents of a trip in search of the beauties of nature unadorned by art. I left Eau Coulee early on the morning of what promised to be a clear, fine day, but had scarcely reached Curepipe when the heavens poured down their floods, and fairly washed us into Grand Port, my mercurial guide expatiating on the brilliant charms of the magnificent prospects scattered around in every direction, when I was unable to see a yard before my nose. The return from Mahébourg was more fortunate, and revealed the beauties which before had been veiled.

In the immediate vicinity of Eau Coulee are several interesting objects, to visit which it is an excellent starting point. At the very doors are curious natural caverns, and arches under which the river runs; and at a short distance is a singular punch-bowl excavation known as the 'Trou aux cerfs,' which some imagine to be the remains of the crater of an extinct volcano. Not very far removed is a remarkable inland lake, called 'Grande Basin,' which is situated at a high level, and lies in a basin surrounded by hills clothed with vegetation. It is reported to be of fabulous depth, and is conjectured to lead to all sorts of strange places. It most probably is formed and fed somewhat in the same manner as the great lake of Kandy, except that its bed is a natural instead of being an artificial excavation.

The physical aspect of the island generally is bold and remarkably picturesque, abounding in scenes of great natural beauty. It is quite entitled

to the eulogistic strains in which it has been immortalized by St. Pierre, is a charming spot, pleasant to the eye, exhilarating to the spirits, and gratifying to almost every variety of taste for landscape.

The lover of the purely pastoral, the admirer of rocks and ravines, the sentimental seeker of shady glades, purling streams or brawling brooks, the venturesome scaler of mountains and heights, and the subterranean searcher of caverns, may all have their respective tastes fully gratified.

Many of the ravines are the very perfection of romantic retreats, covered with the most magnificent, luxuriant creepers, and exhibiting the course of the many streamlets leaping over the rocks in their road, in every possible variety of pretty and picturesque course. Those seen from the end of the shrubberies bounding the rural retreat of the Governor at Reduit, are singularly beautiful, whether seen from the Moka or Plain Wilhelms' side. Some of the water-falls also have a great local reputation, particularly the Tamarin and Chamarel falls. The latter I twice essayed in vain to reach, driven back by incessant rain; the former is much nearer to Port Louis and consequently better known and more frequented. It has not the grandeur of some of the falls in Ceylon and Reunion, yet it amply repays a visit, the scenery surrounding it being deemed by many the most beautiful in the island. The geologist and botanist will find ample room for pleasant and profitable excursions, particularly the former, for the true formation of the island is still a vexed question, and learned authorities have adopted very different conclusions regarding it. My own belief inclines to the volcanic view; but as I have nothing new to offer on the subject, I must refer the curious to the controversies of de Cossigny, Brunel, le Gentil and others who have investigated the question with more knowledge and means of arriving at a correct result than I possessed.

Like Bourbon, the Mauritius is completely surrounded by coral reefs, said to be eighty fathoms wide and ten feet above the level of the sea. The approaches to the island are through apertures in these banks, which can be distinctly traced in clear, calm weather.

The agricultural products of the Mauritius have gone through nearly as many changes as those of the sister-island in its neighbourhood. Cotton, indigo, spices, coffee, the mulberry, and sugar have all had their day, the latter prevailing at present to an extent that has nearly, if not quite, extinguished all other products. Since it became an English possession, the exportation of this staple has risen gradually from 969,264 lbs French, in 1812, to 128,476,547 in 1849, the largest quantity yet produced, a truly wonderful result when the area of the island is considered, and it is borne in mind that a considerable portion is not susceptible of cultivation, or has been allowed to fall into decay. The present Governor has, with the most praiseworthy and benevolent motives, encouraged the re-introduction of the cultivation of the mulberry and production of silk as a means of affording

occupation and subsistence to those unable to engage in any more laborious employment. Some of the cocoons which I saw at Reduit were excellent,



and from a statement recently published in the local journals it appears that 191 lbs 8 oz. of silk were produced in the eighteen months preceding February last, from 3,397 lbs 8 oz. of cocoons. This is small compared with the results of M. de Chazal, who in 1822, obtained seven hundred and fifty pounds of raw silk. The merit of the re-introduction is due to the daughter of that gentleman, and under the enlightened auspices of its existing ruler, it is still capable of becoming a very valuable source of profit to the colony, without trenching upon the province of the principal article of export.

The tea plant has been introduced, as it was once in Reunion, but I did not hear of any great measure of success attendant upon the experiment.

Among the fruits at present cultivated in the island are, several varieties of pine apple, the custard apple, alligator pear, the plantain, the seville orange, the lemon, the mangosteen, the date, the fig, the strawberry, the raspberry, the bread-fruit, the guava, the pomegranate, the leechee, the mango, the mulberry, the peach, the apple, the shaddock, the grape, the chesnut, the cashew nut, some varieties of plum, the tamarind, and several others of less importance.

Of spices there are enumerated cinnamon, ginger, cloves, nutmegs, pepper, all-spice, turmeric, betel, camphor, and grains of paradise.

The economical plants include many varieties of the sugar-cane, cocoa, coffee, cassia, sago, tobacco, tea, and vanilla.

Several grains, pulses and roots are also seen in some places, but few are produced to any great extent. The island is dependent for most of these substances on foreign sources.

Excellent vegetables are procurable at the proper seasons; they did not seem to be very abundant, but those which were to be had during the time of my stay, were good of their kind.

The above imperfect enumeration will give the visitor from India a tolerably good idea of what he may expect in this land of promise.

Plants and seeds from India are always acceptable, and those who go down in ships can easily carry a supply with them.

Living in the Mauritius is somewhat dear, and not particularly good. It is so entirely dependent on other countries for almost every description of food, that considerable fluctuation occurs in the price and supply of the commonest articles of existence. It is in all these respects, however, infinitely in advance of the interior of Ceylon, and the cooking is of a better order than that of the cinnamon island. I have heard that it is likewise very superior to the Cape in this essential particular.

There is an abundant supply of good and wholesome fish, plenty of fruit, well tasted and palatable, and a tolerably respectable show of fresh vegetables. But butcher's meat, butter, and milk are more scarce, and usually not of the same superior quality. The bread made from Cape and Australian



flour, is of fair average quality, and preserved articles with comestibles of every sort are abundant and good. The wines imported for general consumption are not particularly good, although far better than the average of the Indian markets. In some private families the wines, French and German, are superior to anything met with in Hindustan.

Invalids need stand in no fear of starvation in the Mauritius, and there can be no doubt that the establishment of steam communication by keeping the demands of the Colony constantly known, will regulate the supply, and render it, in future, much less subject to fluctuation than it has been heretofore.

There is a good table d'Hôte at both the hotels d'Europe and Masse, and from the latter, dinners can be obtained by those who prefer living at home in lodgings of their own. The greatest want of the colony is servants, and these it is nearly impossible to obtain at any cost.

Those in India who have old and trustworthy attendants should take them with them, paying them at the current rate of wages in the island, which is more than double that of this country. Madrasses and Cingalese are preferable to the servants of Northern India. They are less given to prejudices of caste, are more generally useful, and have no objection to sea voyages. The Mauritius has now, however, become so well known as to have ceased to be a bug-bear, and little difficulty will be experienced in inducing natives to follow their masters. For ladies with families visiting the colony, it is absolutely necessary to take every species of female attendant with them. Those procurable are of an order seldom or never employed in India, have generally engrafted colonial upon native vices, and are usually more troublesome than useful, in addition to rating such service as they are capable of performing, at an unduly extravagant estimate. The Creoles of the inferior classes are little, if at all, better. The only European female servants available are soldiers' wives. They are few in number, as well as too commonly given to gin, bitters, and barrack habits to be tolerated in a quiet household.

There are doubtless exceptions to this statement as there are to every general rule; regarding the mass it conveys the conclusion which I deduced from the information gathered in many places.

There are public baths on the Chaussée of Port Louis, opposite the Company's Garden, which are open every day, and good of their kind. The two hotels also furnish hot and cold baths. The majority of private houses are not furnished with baths of any kind.

For sea bathing a strip of beach near the old salt pans, and within a short distance of the mouth of Grand River has been appropriated. Small thatched huts have been erected there for the accommodation of ladies, and as the bottom is smooth, sandy, and slopes gradually towards the reef, within which, free from any danger of the invasion of sharks or other sea monsters whose acquaintance is undesirable, this forms a sheltered and delightful spot for

the most healthful of all recreations. The favourite bathing places for gentlemen are the creek at the mouth of Grand River, and a place alongside of the Tromelin causeway.

In the neighbourhood of Mahébourg I was shewn a very perilous spot for such amusements, in the most romantic of all ravines, surrounded by every attribute of the abodes of the ancient Naiads. It is an unfinished tête de pont from which the bold bathers plunge into the deep stream below, 'dark as Iser rolling rapidly,' and soon breaking over a rugged ridge of rocks. The fall was more than twenty feet, and almost equal to a leap from the Leucadian rock.

The census of 1846, as published in the local journals, gives the population of Mauritius as consisting of 107,225 males, and 53,864 females, an unusual and in some respects injurious disproportion of sexes. This included the residents and birds of passage, as well as the military force of the island.

Of the above 30,140 males and 25,331 females were classed under the head of general population, 28,142 males and 21,223 females, ex-apprentices or the remains of the old slave population, and 48,935 males, with 7,310 females, Indian population. The disproportion exists in all classes, but is greatest, and likewise of most serious consequence, among the coolies. It is needless to dwell upon the injurious influence of such a state of affairs; it is wonderful that it does not produce more crime and disorder than are known to result from it, a fact which pleads strongly for the good government of the colony.

Until the labourer is surrounded by the influences that can alone result from the possession of a home of his own, he will be restless, errant, fond of change, anxious to return to his birth-place, prone to the commission of crime, and to acquire disorderly habits, and altogether less useful than he would and could become, were this important matter better regulated than it is at present. The colonial government is not to blame for a defect which has been felt, acknowledged, and deplored, by those most interested in the welfare and prosperity of the island.

It would be worth while for some time to come, particularly as the local revenues are now in a healthy and flourishing state, to afford additional encouragement to the migration of more numerous, and a better class of females at almost any temporary sacrifice. Were this to be done, and the local authorities in India to exhibit a direct and more personal interest in the subject of immigration than can be expected from the existing system of management, the end would be one of unalloyed good to both countries. Nothing can exceed the jealous, anxious, and scrupulous care with which the government of the Mauritius watches over the interests of, and protects the Indian immigrant. If anything, he is spoilt by the almost undue amount of consideration shown to him, and I have not the slightest hesitation in recording my conviction that he is better paid, clothed, fed, and treated in every way, than in any part of India with which I am personally acquainted.

The good faith and philanthropy of the authorities of Port Louis are now so well established, and the amount of wealth and useful practical knowledge which the coolie can and does bring back to his home so well known, that any general notification from the Government of India to the labouring population of this vast over-peopled continent would, I am convinced, awaken attention and rapidly accomplish all that could be wished or desired. A simple notice in the vernacular language of the district, pointing out the way, and other subjects connected with the condition of the immigrant, and made known by the civil officers throughout the country, would spread the knowledge of the existence of such a means of bettering their condition, far and wide among the ryots of Hindustan. The Coles, Dhangas, Santals, and numberless other tribes of sturdy, able-bodied labourers would, in all probability, readily embark in such an enterprize in much greater numbers, than they do at present, as the promulgation of its terms and conditions by local officers known to and possessing the confidence of the people, would operate as a guarantee of its truth and trustworthiness.

The only point respecting the coolie upon which I am disposed to quarrel with the island chiefs is the proposal to teach him French, as I have already remarked. I know of no sound principle of policy, utility, or aught else that can justify or sanction such a measure, and it cannot arise from a desire to acquire a questionable species of popularity with the Creoles, a proceeding so unbecoming a British statesman, that I should not for a moment venture to entertain or promulgate it. I have lived too long in France and among the French not to feel the deepest sentiments of respect and admiration for many of their qualities as a nation second to none in some of the highest attributes of civilization; but the genius of their language and habits, their modes of thought and action, are quite unsuited for an English possession, hence I should be sorry to see their introduction encouraged by those whose first duty is to their own country.

Although, as in India, and probably from very much the same causes, the ancient-system of profuse and indiscriminate hospitality has disappeared from the Mauritius, she is still a land of kindly feeling, generous sympathy, and hearty welcome to the stranger. No where are the amenities of social intercourse better understood, more unostentatiously displayed, or more in agreeable contrast to the dull monotony, stiff formality, and disagreeable class propensities of Indian society.

The following brief and accurate description of the island is taken from the War Office returns on the sickness and mortality among the troops serving in the Mauritius. It conveys a better and more correct estimate of the matters to which it refers, than any other authority I have met with, and so far as my brief personal experience warrants the expression of an opinion, it appears to be trustworthy.

"This island is of an irregular oval shape, 36 miles in length, and from 18 to 27 in breadth, with a superficial extent of nearly half a million of acres. It is situated in the Indian Ocean, about 500 miles to the eastward of Madagascar, from 70 to 80 north-east of the island of Bourbon, and lies in Lat. 20° 9' S.; Long. 57° 28' E.

"From whatever quarter it is approached the aspect is singularly abrupt and picturesque. The land rises rapidly from the coast to the interior, where it forms three chains of mountains from 1800 to 2800 feet in height, intersecting the country in different directions. Except towards the summit, these are generally covered with wood, and in many parts cleft into deep ravines, through which numerous rivulets find their way to the low grounds, and terminate in about twenty small rivers, by which the whole line of coast is well watered from the foot of the mountains to the sea. Though, from its mountainous and rugged character, a great part of the interior is not available for any useful purpose, yet extensive plains several leagues in circumference are to be found in the highlands, and in the valley as well as along the coast, most of the ground is well adapted either for the ordinary purposes of agriculture, or for raising any description of tropical produce. Extensive forests, still cover a considerable portion of the districts of Mahébourg, the Savanna, and Flacq, and in the centre of the island are several small lakes, but neither of these agencies seem to exert any material influence on the climate.

"The soil in many parts is exceedingly rich, consisting either of a black vegetable mould, or a bed of stiff clay of considerable depth; occasionally the clay is found mixed with iron ore and the debris of volcanic rock. In the neighbourhood of Port Louis, and generally in the immediate vicinity of the sea, there is but a scanty covering of light friable soil over a rocky surface of coralline formation. The whole coast is surrounded by reefs of coral, with the exception of a few openings through which vessels can approach the shore, and at these points the different military posts for the defence of the island have been established.

"There is a marked difference in the climate of this island in different situations, the windward side enjoying a lower temperature by several degrees than the leeward, owing to the cooling influence of the south-east breeze which prevails during most of the year. The vicinity of the mountains also exerts very considerable influence on the humidity; and great varieties of temperature are experienced, according to the different degrees of elevation attained, so that at Moka and Plains Wilhelms, in the high regions of the interior, fires are often necessary, when at Port Louis, though but two or three leagues distant, the heat is excessive. The following table shows the range of the thermometer and fall of rain at the capital:—

Months.	Temperature.			Fall of Rain.
	Average of 10 years, 1825 to 1834, inclusive.			Average of 7 years 1828 to 1834, inclusive.
	Maximum.	Medium.	Minimum.	Inches.
January,	88°	83°	78°	6.14
February,	88	83½	78½	5.53
March,	87	83	78½	9.55
April,	85	80½	76	6.86
May,	83	78	73	3.49
June,	82	74½	71	.78
July,	79	74½	70	1.37
August,	78	74	70	1.04
September,	80	75	71	.76
October,	84	80	72	.43
November,	84	79	74	1.48
December,	87	81	75	1.87
Annual mean,...				39.30

"It will be observed that, so far as regards temperature, rain, physical aspects, and diversity of climate, this island exhibits a very striking resemblance to Jamaica; its latitude, too,

is nearly the same, though, being to the southward of the line, the seasons are reversed, summer extending from October to April, and winter during the rest of the year. The principal rainy season is from the end of December to the beginning of April, but showers are frequent at all times, particularly in the high grounds and vicinity of the mountains.

"The prevailing winds are from south-east to south, and from north-east to north. Easterly winds are rare, and usually accompanied by heavy rain; those from the west are also by no means common, and generally broken by long calms. Hurricanes are of frequent occurrence, and create great devastation, with much loss of life, but do not appear to exercise any decided influence on the health. They principally occur in January, February and March, when, in this climate, the greatest degree of heat is combined with the greatest moisture. They have often been observed to commence about the change of the moon, but no positive connection has ever been established between their prevalence and any meteorological phenomena."

The following is the average of the observations of three subsequent years, 1846, 1847 and 1850, the two former taken by M. Bousquet, a careful and scientific observer. They are for the level of Port Louis, and consequently the heat is seven or eight degrees higher than at Moka, or the freely exposed positions of the windward aspect of the island.

	<i>Barometer.</i>	<i>Thermometer.</i>
January 1846,	30° 07	85° 40
1847,	30° 05	85° 40
1850,	29° 94	81° 10

A cyclone was experienced towards the latter end of the last mentioned* period, passing N. E. to S. W. but on the northward of the Mauritius, travelling from the directions referred to, and passing N. W. and W. of Bourbon. It was accompanied with much rain, and some electric phenomena.

February 1846,	29° 92	86° 75
1847,	29° 99	83° 00
1850,	29° 98	83° 30

There was a gale also in this month with are abundant down-pour of rain.*

March 1846,	30° 40	86° 50
1847,	30° 08	84° 00
1850,	29° 92	81° 40

Beautifully clear weather and gentle showers.*

April 1846,	30° 07	84° 20
1847,	30° 07	83° 57
1850,	30° 06	80° 80

A very fine month: some brilliant meteors seen.*

May 1846,	30° 10	82° 75
1847,	30° 15	78° 98
1850,	30° 12	78° 50

Weather clear and fine—very little rain, and heavy dew at night. Cool season commenced.*

June 1846,	30° 20	72° 80
1847,	30° 17	75° 60
1850,	30° 19	75° 70

* These notes of the weather refer to 1847.

A cool, pleasant month, with a moderate amount of rain, and heavy dews during those nights in which W. and N. W. winds blew.

July	1846,	30° 20	72° 80
	1847,	30° 16	74° 27
	1850,	30° 28	73° 33

Constantly fair with a few passing showers.

August	1846,	30° 26	74° 40
	1847,	30° 29	72° 75
	1850,	30° 24	73° 06

Sky rather clouded, and gentle showers almost daily.

September	1846,	30° 20	75° 50
	1847,	30° 22	74° 21
	1850,	30° 18	74° 00

Much rain, wind, squally and variable, and many meteors seen.

October	1846,	30° 14	80° 71
	1847,	30° 22	74° 31
	1850,	30° 19	77° 05

Little rain and much drought, wind variable—several meteors seen.

November	1846,	30° 18	82° 10
	1847,	30° 16	79° 03
	1850,	30° 17	80° 06

General drought.

December	1846,	30° 08	84° 40
	1847,	30° 08	82° 09
	1850,	30° 06	83° 01

Wind variable, scarcely any rain, and a gale passed at a distance.

The mean average of the barometer for 1846 was 30° 11 and of 1847, 30° 07; the mean average of the thermometer for the same years was respectively 80° 71 and 78° 80.

A hurricane occurred in February 1850, and was at its greatest height from noon to one o'clock of the day of observation.

The observations for 1850 were calculated by M. Regnaud, in the observatory of Port Louis, and are published in a tabular form, with a broken period of 1849 and 1851 in Bolton's Mauritius Almanac for the latter year. In the column of remarks it is noted that "the observations were taken at 10 P. M. daily upon the thermometer in the clock of the observatory." It is also mentioned in the same place that the average heat in the town elsewhere, was five degrees greater than in the place where the observations were made and recorded.

The mean annual temperature of Rome is 60° 70; of Naples 61° 40; of Nice 59° 48; of Malta 67° 30; of Madeira a 64° 96; of the hill districts of Ceylon 70° 18; of Port Jackson (N. S. W.) 62° 89; of Port Philip (N. S. W.)

59° 58'; of Auckland, New Zealand 58° 43'; of Ootacamund in the Neilgherries 52° 28'. Taking the climate of Moka and the higher parts of the Mauritius to be seven or eight degrees lower than that of Port Louis, the mean temperature of the coolest parts of the island will be somewhat higher than that of Malta, and nearly as low as that of the hill districts of Ceylon.

The Mauritius must certainly be among the healthiest portions of the earth for Europeans, if immunity from some of the most severe and dangerous diseases of other countries be taken as an evidence of salubrity. To the drunken and depraved there is no safety in any climate, and they are as liable there as elsewhere to pay the penalty of their folly and vices, but for those who lead well-regulated lives, and are possessed of the means of living in comfort, the chances of prolonged existence are as great in the Mauritius as in the most favoured regions of the globe.

The formidable types of Indian fever are nearly unknown, and those of European character are so mild as to be less severe and fatal than in any other place in the world in which British troops are quartered. The mortality of those attacked is less than 1 per cent., and when the reckless habits of European soldiery, from whom the calculation is made, is taken into account, it is an indisputable proof of the singular healthiness of the climate, dependent in some degree also upon the absence of most of the causes of a class of disease too well and fatally known in India.

Diseases of the lungs are sufficiently frequent in occurrence, but with the exception of consumption, are neither very severe nor fatal to those who are ordinarily prudent. The mildness of the climate, the purity of the air, and the very moderate range of the thermometer satisfactorily account for this.

The difference of temperature between the windward and leeward sides of the island enables the invalid, in some measure, to choose his own climate in pulmonary affections; but it is not, on the whole, ranked so high as Madeira, Lisbon, and some parts of the south of France, as a sanitarium for those afflicted with such maladies.

Dysentery and liver disease are among the most formidable complaints of the colony, but, so far as I could learn, they are more justly attributable to the habits of the soldiery, than to the influence of climate and exposure to elevated temperature. Officers and the white civil inhabitants, according to the war office returns, suffer "but little from them, the mortality from all causes at a corresponding period of life not being greater than what occurs among the troops from diseases of the bowels alone." Although the sea voyage from India, and the fine climate of the Mauritius will undoubtedly operate beneficially upon invalids who have suffered from the maladies referred to, in any part of Hindustan, I should strongly recommend their resorting in preference to the Australian colonies, which exercise a much more decided and marked effect in restoring health in such cases.

Cholera appears only to have visited this abode of health twice, and al-

though it was milder in character than in almost any other place in which it has ever appeared, exhibited not a single feature of contagion in its course, and was tractable in treatment if taken in hand sufficiently early, it has left behind it a most absurd amount of dread in the minds of the Creole population. The ludicrous and unmanly degree in which this is exhibited when any ship containing, or supposed to contain this arch-fiend of Pandora's box, approaches the port, is one of the most painful exhibitions of human weakness that I have ever heard of. It seems to be useless to reason with them on the subject—they are alike proof against argument and common humanity in the matter. Invalids wishing to visit the colony should be very careful to ascertain that the ship carries a clean bill of health, or they will be subjected to the discomfort and annoyance of quarantine in one of its most repulsive and disagreeable forms.

With the exception of the brain fever of drunkards, diseases of the brain and nervous system are not more common than in the healthiest parts of Europe. Hydrophobia is said to be very frequent, but can scarcely be considered a disease of climate. Rheumatic and other complaints are infinitely less severe and frequent than in India; so that upon the whole, with the exceptions mentioned above, I consider the Mauritius to be admirably adapted to restore health from the majority of Indian diseases to which Europeans are liable, and for which change of climate is necessary.

It is, on the other hand singularly fatal, as is Reunion, to the Negro race. It does not appear to be particularly unhealthy to Indian labourers, but I have not seen sufficient data on the subject to enable me to form a definite opinion on this point.

The majority of those with whom I came in contact were robust and much more healthy and vigorous looking than they are in their own country. Out of a return batch of nearly three hundred who came up to Calcutta in the ship with me, there was only one sickly looking individual, and he was more lean and lanky than positively unhealthy.

From a statement of mortality among the Indian immigrants during the years 1845, 46 and 47, published in one of the Mauritius journals, and said to have been compiled from official documents, there appear to have died, in

	Men.	Women.	Children.
1845.....	1283	127	37
1846.....	797	121	45
1847.....	530	75	13

The number of new immigrants in the colony on the 1st of January 1848, as given by the same authority, was 43,865 men, 7,355 women, and 3,887 children. If these numbers represent an approximation to the whole number in the island at the time, the mortality is high, and the climate not much more adapted for Asiatics than it is for Africans. But, as I have already mentioned, I should not have arrived at this conclusion from their physical

aspect when seen at work on the estates, and in the absence of positive data as to the nature of the diseases to which they are liable, it would be wrong to give any decided opinion. It would be well, however, for the Government of India to call for an exact return of mortality, with its causes, from the very commencement of the introduction of Indian labourers, to set so important a question at rest.

In 1818, a M. Tiedeman discovered a mineral spring, chalybeate in character, on the heights of the Champ de Lort, adjoining the Champ de Mars. In composition and effects it was said to be fully equal to some of the Cheltenham springs.

It appears to have been neglected of late years, although its most recent analysis as given by a Dr. Watson, would shew that it is capable of being very useful in those diseases for which such remedies are suited.

If correct, his result is as follows, the quantity analysed being a quart of the chalybeate.

Carbonate of Magnesia,	}	..... 5.50
„ „ Lime,		
Chloride of Sodium,		50.00
„ „ Magnesium,		6.00
„ „ Lime,		7.75
Sulphate of Magnesia,		32.00
„ „ Lime,		6.25
Oxide of Iron, .....		.75
Silica,		1.75

Very recently at a meeting of the Mauritius Medical Society of Emulation, held on the 15th of January of the present year, a report was presented by a special commission upon the discovery of a new mineral spring at Long Mountain. It is at a distance of about two leagues and a half from Port Louis, and would seem to have been long known to the inhabitants of the place under the name of Ruisseau Rose.

It is easily accessible in carriages, and situated in a pretty and picturesque part of the country, dotted with small low hills covered with fruit and forest trees.

The source of supply is represented to be tolerably abundant, the air of the locality pure and salubrious, the situation cool and shady, and to possess all the adjuncts necessary to the formation of a sanitarium of superior character.

The properties of the water are such, as if correctly reported, will certainly render it a valuable discovery. At the spring it is said to be very limpid, without smell, and to have at first a rather pleasant taste, which subsequently becomes slightly styptic.

The temperature is 71° F. and its specific gravity 1001. When exposed to the air it retains its transparency for some time, and at the end of a few

hours precipitates an ochry sediment. This was ascertained to be the bicarbonate of iron held in solution by an excess of free carbonic acid gas.

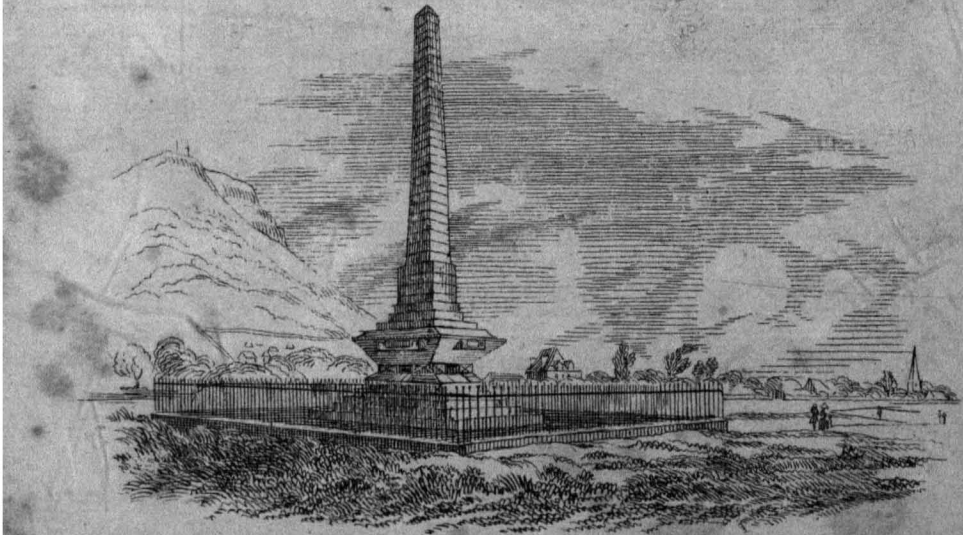
Centigrammes.

The following is its composition :—

Four thousand grammes containing oxide of iron held in solution by an excess of carbonic acid,	15.000
Chloride of sodium,	20.025
„ calcium,	5.020
„ magnesium,	5.019
Sulphate of Magnesia,	5.024
„ lime,	5.005
Carbonate of magnesia,	5.030
„ lime,	0.040
Silica,	5.012
Gummy matter, a trace,	

82.005m.

In speaking of Salazie, I have already referred to the extreme value and efficacy of its chalybeate waters. Should subsequent observation and experience prove that the commission have made no mistake in the matter, and there is no ground for a contrary supposition, it will be an additional source of attraction and benefit of no mean magnitude to invalids from India.





CEYLON.

It would be unpardonable in a notice of the Sanitaria for invalids from Hindustan to be found in the Indian Ocean, to omit all mention of the nearest, most accessible, and best known of them all—the renowned Lanka of Hindu fable, the land of pearls and cinnamon, known to Greeks and barbarians, and celebrated for centuries in legend and romance.

Situated within the tropic of Cancer between the 5th and 10th parallels of North Latitude, a little more than a thousand miles from Calcutta, is Ceylon, one of the most fertile and beautiful islands in the whole world. Supposed at one time to have formed an integral portion of the vast continent from which it is separated by but a very brief interval, it may without much stretch of imagination be said to belong to India.

With its geography, history, statistics, and politics I have nothing to say, since all these matters have been ably discussed by many who had better means of acquiring accurate information than I possessed, and who were more fitted to do justice to such a task. My sole object is to record a few brief memoranda regarding its advantages as a resort for those in search of health, and my remarks must be brief, as there remains but little spare space for the completion of my 'rough notes.'

Regarding the means of reaching Ceylon little need be mentioned beyond the fact known to all, that the magnificent vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental Company visit the port of Galle every month, and will, ere long, establish a fortnightly communication with that place. I have now journeyed

many times in those floating castles, and found them as complete and perfect in their internal economy and arrangements, as can be expected or desired. To please every taste is proverbially impossible. I have not yet seen any just or reasonable ground for complaint, and consider the steamers in question to be well adapted to carry invalids in comfort and safety to their destination.

The only changes I would recommend are, a diminution in the rates of passage money to enable persons of small means to partake of advantages now denied to them, a result that I am convinced would ultimately be profitable to the liberal company to which is now entrusted the command of the steam navigation of the eastern seas; and to abolish the supply of wines and spirits, each person paying for his own consumption, as in the case of the American Ocean Steamers.

The members of the 'eat-and-swill' family who frequent the saloons of the vessels are very numerous, and their 'grog-swig' propensities great under the existing system, which also entails the disadvantage of the disciples of Father Matthew paying for the libations of the worshippers of the rosy god. The result is neither pleasant nor profitable to the majority of passengers by the overland route, as it is somewhat facetiously denominated.

The chief defect in the construction of these fine vessels, is in the important department of ventilation, to which it is to be hoped that, in future, a larger amount of attention will be paid. With the powerful machinery at command whenever the steam is up, there can surely be no great or insuperable mechanical difficulty in forcing an abundant supply of pure, fresh air, into every habitable space of the ship.

GALLE, or Point-de Galle, as it is most commonly called, is now the chief port of Ceylon, and the place of disembarkation for all travellers from India and England. It is situated in Lat. $6^{\circ} 0' 59''$ N. and Long. $80^{\circ} 17' 2''$ E. and possesses a pretty and safe harbour, capable of containing and sheltering vessels of the largest tonnage. The entrance to the bay is rendered somewhat difficult, particularly during the S. W. Monsoon, by sunken rocks, but these are so well known, and so easily avoided, that accidents rarely, if ever, happen. The first view of the fort, town, light-house, and surrounding hills clothed in the most dense and luxuriant of tropical vegetation is extremely pretty and picturesque.

The landing is generally safe and easy, either in broad boats of European design and construction, or the quaint, cranky-looking native crafts, appearing as if they were scooped out of the trunk of a large tree, and protected by an unsightly, but very efficient out-rigger. The landing place is a wooden jetty, at the end of which are the custom-house and its appendages. The chief portion of the town is placed within the fort, a most unsightly Dutch structure, somewhat out of keeping with the pleasant panorama presented by the bay, yet possessing an air of substantial, matter-of-fact solidity, characteristic of the famous people to whom it owes its origin.

The entrance to the fort is through a dilapidated, donjon-ish, arched gateway, immediately in front of which is the guard house. The streets are narrow, in some places steep, and in all close, crowded, ill-ventilated, and not particularly captivating.

The hotels are doubtless convenient, but dirty and ill-supplied, with little to tempt a traveller to prolong his acquaintance with them. The boarding houses are better, and preferable for those compelled, or desirous to take up their abode in such a pent-up prison.

The ramparts are pretty, and afford an agreeable morning and evening walk.

The old Dutch houses, church, and residence for the Governor are neither ornamental nor remarkable, the only really striking object in the place being the light-house, a graceful iron structure of recent origin.

The neighbourhood of Galle is extremely pretty, particularly the green hills by which it is surrounded, some of which command extensive and delightful prospects, and are crowned by commodious and comfortable bungalows. The best is that of Dr. Garstin, on the highest hill, called *Erinboro* by an Hibernian corruption of its vernacular patronymic. It is admirably adapted as an intermediate sanitarium for invalids from India, who require sea air and a moderate change of climate, without resorting to the more decided depression of the hill stations. The bungalow itself is roomy, well constructed, and has attached to it every convenience in the shape of out-houses, with an excellent garden, and a good road, both from the fort to the hill, and from the base to the summit of the elevation. It is, I believe, for sale at a moderate price, and ought to be secured for Calcutta denizens who wish to run down for a brief stay without visiting the interior.

One of the most pleasant excursions in the neighbourhood of Galle, is to the missionary station at Baddygamma on the Gindura river. The station consists of a tolerably handsome church, with schools and residences for the missionaries attached. It is upon the summit of a lofty hill at the foot of which runs the river, and it commands one of the finest views in the island. It has been likened to the view from Richmond, but is more extensive, variegated, and the country covered with a luxuriance of graceful vegetation to be seen only in tropical regions.

The communication between Galle, Colombo, and Kandy, is by means of mail coaches, with flat roofs, open sides secured with canvas curtains, and very hard unyielding springs. The mail starts at gun-fire every morning, and reaches Colombo at 4 or 5 in the afternoon, the distance traversed being about 72 miles. The pace is good throughout, and the road excellent. For the greater part of the way it skirts along the sea-shore, lined with cocoa-nut palms, which here flourish in extreme luxuriance; in fact it appears as if all the members of this elegant oriental family had originally migrated from the low land of Ceylon, so numerous and varied are they at every step and in all directions. There are substantial, and occasionally

handsome bridges over the very numerous rivers that water this fertile portion of the island. In some places, before emptying themselves into the sea, they expand into small lakes, the banks of which are picturesque from the dense and brilliant foliage that lines them to the very water's edge.

There are several rest houses, as the road-side inns are here called, along the road. They are far superior in convenience and every other respect to the dawk bungalows of India.

The best of them is said to be at Bentotte, the half-way station, where travellers breakfast. It is celebrated for oysters, which I strongly recommend every one who is not endowed with the '*dura messorum ilia*' most carefully to eschew, as they are extremely unwholesome, and have little of the genuine flavour of the European variety to recommend them. The bridge at Bentotte is one of the most substantial and elegant structures on the road; a portion of it had been carried away at the time of my visit, and we crossed in a large ferry boat near the site of the old bridge.

One of the prettiest places on that line is Caltura, about 25 miles from Columbo: it has a rest-house, not much frequented, and a very extraordinary looking wooden bridge over the Kallee-Gunga, which is here exceedingly broad. This is one of the routes by Ratnapoora to Adam's Peak, a place which I regret infinitely having been unable to visit, particularly during the pilgrimage in March, when it is certainly one of the wonders of the world.

The country between Caltura and the capital is full of beauty, and improves as you advance to Pantura, the next stage, between which and Colombo, the road was dusty and disagreeable, the only object of interest being the old cinnamon gardens, which had a neglected, parched, unpoetical appearance, very different from the popular notions associated with the habitat of this fragrant substance.

Colombo is approached through an extended suburb called Colpetty, where the road is, on either hand, lined with handsome bungalows, until it opens out on the Galle face of the fort. This in my estimation is the prettiest view of the place; on it are the race course and stand, to the left the sea, and on the right the lake and Slave island, forming on the whole as agreeable a prospect as can be afforded by a city built on a level plain.

The Queen's House, public offices, barracks for the European corps and artillery, the light-house, public library, medical museum, hospitals, and in fact all structures of importance, are placed within the fort. The public buildings are mean and shabby. The only object worth seeing, as far as beauty of design or execution is concerned, is the statue of Sir Edward Barnes.

The principal hotel at Colombo, which faces the Post Office, is near the library and Queen's House, and occupies one of the best positions in the town: it is a large and tolerably well managed establishment, moderate in charges, and clean. The bed-rooms are, however, close and confined, and the general arrangements not particularly well suited for a tropical climate.

The most interesting objects at Colombo are the cinnamon gardens, the prison, probably the finest institution of the kind in the East, the library, and the rooms of the chamber of commerce. The Oriental Bank is the most imposing looking structure in the town. The lunatic asylum and pauper hospital are highly creditable institutions, both under charge of young men educated in the Calcutta Medical College. It would be difficult, in any country, to find similar establishments more skilfully and creditably managed.

Colombo is a hot, disagreeable place, at which I recommed travellers to remain as short a time as possible. Kandy is the next point to be attained, and to it a mail coach runs daily, the fare being £ 2-10, the same as from Galle to the capital. The distance is also the same. A very small amount of luggage is allowed, all in excess of which is charged at the rate of two pence a pound weight. The first part of the road is not particularly interesting, except perhaps at the bridge of boats, which is a singular and safe structure.

A little more than half way is Ambapussa, with an excellent rest-house for breaking the fast of travellers; the up and down coaches usually meet there. The ground now begins to rise and the scenery to change in character until the Kadooganava Pass is reached, the road through which is a magnificent memorial of engineering skill, equal, if not superior, to any Roman remain of the same kind and character. The following description of the scene is taken from a small brochure published at Galle, and supposed to be written by a very grave, sober, steady, anti-poetical specimen of the genus pedagogue. "Here the path winds round the face of a mountain, so that, in some places there is a perpendicular descent from the road side of many hundred feet. Fearful as the way is on the one side, it seems equally so on the other, as the towering hills on your left seem to threaten every instant to fall and crush you in their ruins. The enormous trees with stems bare of branches to the height of fifty or sixty feet, are sometimes beautifully festooned with jungle creepers. The higher you ascend the grander the view becomes, until about the middle of the pass where the scene may be viewed in all its enchanting splendour. Impetuous mountain streams rush flowing o'er the rocky beds, threatening every instant to sweep away the slender bridge on which you stand. In front the mountain descends in one unbroken line to a verdant, circular plain, enclosed on every side by hills radiating from it as from a centre. These lesser hills are backed by enormous mountains, some clothed to their summits with virgin forests, while others shoot up their bare and rugged tops above the trees. One of the hills bears a striking resemblance to Arthur's seat, near Edinburgh, and the likeness is rendered more complete from its being surmounted by the figure of a head. The whole scene is grand, and at the same time pleasing, as the woods resound with the cooing of the wild doves, their notes being sometimes interrupted by the shrill cry of the beautifully-plumed wood-pecker, or the clear, starting whistle of some large hawk."

The above, far from being exaggerated, gives a very faint idea of the beauty and grandeur of the scene, of which it is quite impossible to convey any clear or accurate impression without the aid of the pencil.

At the top of the pass is a Tuscan pillar and pedestal, crowned by an unsightly urn, forming a monument to the memory of Captain Dawson of the Royal Engineers, the officer by whom the road was planned and cut—itsself the proudest testimony of his skill and perseverance.

Within a short distance from Kandy, which is now at hand, is a very singular bridge of Satin wood, spanning the Mahawelli Gunga, the largest of the Ceylon rivers. It is nearly as much aslant as the leaning tower of Pisa, yet seems tolerably firm and steady. There was little water in the bed of the stream, when I crossed it in February and March, but when full, I can imagine it to be a very grand, roaring, irresistible cataract. It has once or twice, I was told, risen very nearly to the level of the bridge.

A little beyond the Peradenia Bridge is the botanical garden bearing the same name, covering a large space of ground, and kept in excellent order.

It contains many rare and beautiful specimens of the singularly varied vegetation of this prolific island, and is well deserving of more than a single visit. Most of the plants are identified and labelled, a great convenience to all who visit such places.

The approach to Kandy from this side is certainly pretty and pleasing, although, with the exception of the Pavilion, and the old Cingalese temple and relics, there are few striking buildings in it.

The cool, refreshing atmosphere that greets the traveller as soon as the dust of the road is left behind, is singularly grateful after the heat of the lower part of the island.

KANDY the capital of the central province and country-residence of the Governor, is situated in a beautiful and fertile valley 1467 feet above the level of the sea. It is surrounded by picturesque hills in every direction, and from the elevated points in its vicinity, magnificent views of the surrounding valleys may be obtained. There are curious old native buildings in the place, which are more remarkable for historical associations, than for any claims of their own to beauty. The temple containing Budda's tooth, the old hall of audience converted into a police court, the ancient palace occupied as his private residence by the government agent, and the summer retreat on the lake, now used as a magazine, are the chief of the relics referred to.

The finest building in the place, and indeed in the whole island, which is remarkable for the meanness and insignificance of its public edifices, is the pavilion built by Sir Edward Barnes. It is well placed in a small park laid out and cultivated as a garden, and from most of the heights in its vicinity forms a picturesque object.

The house is of a brilliant white colour, and constructed somewhat in the

Anglo-oriental style of architecture, with verandahs and colonnades. Behind it is a lofty hill, along the side of which to near its summit a fine road has been scarped, broad enough for a carriage to pass up, and so easy in its gradients as to be surmounted without the smallest difficulty. It is called Lady Horton's walk, and from different points of it striking views are obtained of the Mahawelli-Gunga winding through the deep, densely wooded, magnificent Doombera valley, with the Kunkles and various other lofty hills in the distance, until on returning to the pavilion face of the hill, Kandy with its lake is seen lying in the hollow.

There are two hotels at Kandy, of which the best is Albert's Boarding House, facing the green, with the lake to its right hand side. It is an exceedingly good establishment for Bachelors, but has scanty accommodation for ladies. The public library, which is placed on the very margin of the lake, opposite the temple, is also an excellent institution, and most liberal in the bestowal of its privileges.

The principal ride and drive is around the lake, which is surrounded by a good, broad, even road, and on the lower side is protected by a massive stone parapet, with a shaded walk for foot passengers.

House rent and servants are dear at Kandy, the bazar is well supplied, jungle equipments of all kinds are procurable, and it is the central point of reunion for the planters scattered throughout the province. The branch of the Oriental Bank established there, is a very convenient institution, and like all the offshoots of that substantial corporation, is so well managed as to be of the greatest use to travellers and others who are unwilling to carry any large amount of money about the country with them.

From its height above the level of the sea, variously given as from 1467 to 1670 feet, the latter probably the most correct estimate, Kandy enjoys a corresponding diminution of temperature, but is liable to considerable local variation in the range of heat, and at the close of each monsoon is visited by frequent fogs. It rains more or less during every month of the year, the fall being heaviest at the beginning of the monsoons.

The following table of the temperature and fall of rain during the three years noted, is from the late Inspector General Henry Marshall's work on the Medical Typography of the island.

Months.	Highest Temperature.			Lowest Temperature			Greatest variation in 24 hours.			Variations in each month on average of 3 years.	Fall of rain in inches.			Fall of rain in each month on average of 3 years.
	1817	1818	1819	1817	1818	1819	1817	1818	1819		1818	1819	1820	
January,	80	80	80	67	60	53	9	15	19	14	2 $\frac{5}{10}$	1	10	4 $\frac{5}{10}$
February,	80	81	84	68	62	57	9	15	22	15	1	$\frac{4}{10}$	3 $\frac{8}{10}$	1 $\frac{7}{10}$
March,	80	82	87	68	61	53	11	19	17	16	4 $\frac{4}{10}$	8 $\frac{1}{10}$	4	5 $\frac{5}{10}$
April,	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	84	87	69	64	63	10	20	18	16	5 $\frac{2}{10}$	11 $\frac{7}{10}$	7 $\frac{1}{10}$	8
May,	84	84	84	70	63	67	11	21	15	16	$\frac{8}{10}$	6 $\frac{6}{10}$	5 $\frac{1}{10}$	4 $\frac{4}{10}$
June,	79	83	83	67	70	68	11	11	15	12	6 $\frac{2}{10}$	2 $\frac{3}{10}$	14 $\frac{4}{10}$	7 $\frac{6}{10}$
July,	78	82	81	70	66	68	7	12	12	10	9 $\frac{7}{10}$	10 $\frac{7}{10}$	6 $\frac{1}{10}$	9
August,	80	81	84	67	68	68	9	12	15	12	6 $\frac{1}{10}$	3 $\frac{5}{10}$	4 $\frac{4}{10}$	4 $\frac{7}{10}$
September, ..	81	80	84	67	69	68	10	10	15	12	7 $\frac{7}{10}$	8 $\frac{3}{10}$	5 $\frac{7}{10}$	7 $\frac{2}{10}$
October,	78	78	83	68	68	65	9	9	15	11	15 $\frac{4}{10}$	6 $\frac{1}{10}$	9 $\frac{2}{10}$	10 $\frac{3}{10}$
November, ..	78	80	82	67	63	61	11	11	20	14	9 $\frac{8}{10}$	7 $\frac{1}{10}$	4 $\frac{2}{10}$	7
December, ..	80	80	82	68	61	64	10	17	17	15	6	18 $\frac{6}{10}$	12 $\frac{5}{10}$	12 $\frac{4}{10}$
Total,											74 $\frac{8}{10}$	84 $\frac{3}{10}$	87 $\frac{8}{10}$	82 $\frac{3}{10}$

The sun during the day-time is occasionally oppressive, but the mornings and evenings are always cool and pleasant, from the breeze blowing through the gorges of the hills surrounding the valley.

Fever and dysentery are the most prevalent and intractable diseases to which it is liable, and are most probably chiefly due to the malaria disengaged in the lower part of the valley, which is still in some degree a swamp: the great variation of temperature is also injurious. The upper part of the valley is well drained by the lake, and the residences upon its border and along the face of the steep hill skirting it are pleasant and healthy. Upon the whole, however, I am not disposed to recommend any lengthened sojourn in Kandy to the victims of fever and hepatic disease from India.

From Kandy the next change is to a much higher level, with a very rapid rise viz. from 1676 to 6200 feet, the level of the table-land of Newera Ellia. This station is 47 miles to the south west of Kandy, the road winding for a great part of the way through a bold, mountainous tract of country, intersected by numerous streams, running through deep and picturesque vallies.

There are two modes of approach to the sanitarium, the one by an excellent road, through the stupendous pass at Rambodde; the other by a much less accessible, but nearly as picturesque a route through the Hewahetti district and across the Maturata valley, behind the great hill that towers above the whole island.

The former is the route preferred by all sober, sedate, or sickly travellers, as it is practicable for wheel carriages, and has three excellent rest-houses, to refresh, recruit, or remain a day at, if necessary.

The latter is for a great part of the way along a mountain track, or trace as I believe it is technically termed, in which it is very difficult at times to discover any trace at all, and in other places is no easy matter to scramble up and down the stony apologies for a path. It is only practicable for bipeds and quadrupeds, yet might easily and at comparatively small cost be made more accessible.

The chief road is first to the Peradenia bridge where it branches off to the left to Gampola, passing through a flat, uninteresting country, until it reaches Gampola, where is the worst supplied rest-house I fell in with. After crossing a pretty ferry, the road begins gradually to rise, and to become more picturesque at every step, until after surmounting the steep pass of Atta baggé, the station of Pusilava is reached, which is 3000 feet above the sea, and has two rest-houses, one extremely good, clean, and well supplied.

It is in an excellent intermediate climate, well adapted for those who are afraid at once to face the very low temperature of the higher regions. Some of the finest coffee estates in the island are in the immediate vicinity of Pusilava, the road passing through the very centre of the cultivation.

A little beyond Pusilava at Helbodde, the ground still continuing to rise, the traveller comes upon the Kotmalé valley, stretched out in an almost unrivalled panorama of undulating surface, watered by a multitude of small tributary streams, rushing down the sides of the neighbouring mountains until they form a grand basin, in the centre of which they unite in a deep, rapid stream, which ultimately empties itself into the Mahawelli-gunga.

The road to Newera Ellia continues to wind round the steep sides of the mountains until it reaches Rambodde, the foot of the stupendous pass, which at once rises between three and four thousand feet. Near its lower extremity are splendid waterfalls, the sides of some of the precipitous rocks are level, their summits crowned with gigantic forest trees, and from the rest-house another, and, if possible, still more charming view of the Kotmalé valley is obtained.

I walked down the pass on my return from the Sanitarium, and found it to be nearly thirteen miles in length. The inclination of the road is said to be one foot in twelve or thirteen, and it is bounded by the hill on one side, and the deep, precipitous valleys on the other. In some places the waterfalls run under perilous looking stone causeways, without a protecting parapet, and in the season of the rains, they thunder across the road itself, rendering it a service of no slight danger and difficulty to cross them. In descending, the length of the way is shortened by small, steep foot-paths running directly from one level to another, instead of winding round the hill. The coolies carrying the baggage selected several of these, and I also tried them, but

found them too precipitous and slippery to be pleasant, what I gained in distance being lost in time. I had dismounted from my pony at the head of the pass, and left him with the syce to bring after me. He attempted the same short cuts, and tumbled, pony and all, down a horrible looking chasm—wonderful to say without sustaining much damage. How they managed to scramble up again I know not. He did not make his appearance at Pusilava until three in the afternoon, when I had nearly given up all hope of seeing him again, several wayfarers having told me that my pony was lying dead at the foot of the pass.

The other road is in altogether another direction, passing along the lower border of, and behind the hills skirting the lake. I started from Kandy an hour before daybreak on Tuesday the 28th of January, 1851, by the bright light of the moon, a coolie running before me with my carpet bag on his head. For the first ten miles there was a very fair road winding up and down along the sides of the hills, with the wild stream of the Mahawelli-gunga roaring over a rocky bottom at their base.

The cool, fresh air of the morning, with the silent solitude of all around, and the ever-varying scenery, broken at intervals by the sullen and stunning roar of the stream as it forced its way over some unusually rocky obstruction, were singularly pleasing. The distant hill-tops were capped with a dense mist, which gradually cleared away as the sun rose, gilding the landscape with the most gorgeous tints.

The sides of the hills in many places were cut into terraces or ledges, like broad steps, on which paddy was sown, and plentifully watered by the mountain rills. When green they give a singularly bright velvet appearance to the sides of the mountains, contrasting beautifully with the dark foliage above and around them.

The road ends in a bridle path, which, after running through a small belt of forest, becomes rough, uneven, and at some places precipitous, until it reaches the Mahawelli-Gunga at a pretty and picturesque ford, about two feet deep at the time I crossed it.

The water was clear, cold, and sparkling, falling over a ledge of rocks bounding the ford.

On the other bank I found a sturdy galloway awaiting me. Very pleasant is the remembrance of the smart canter at which old Tom took me to my destination, scrambling up steep ascents as nimbly as a goat, descending over ugly looking rocks of all dimensions with far more ease and nonchalance than I could have managed on foot, and making a bold rush wherever the path was a gentle undulation along a hollow, or tolerably level on the slope of a high hill. On a sudden when I was in no wise expecting it, he bolted sharp round a corner, and amidst the barking of dogs and all the vocal accompaniments of a well stocked farm yard, deposited me safely at the door of the old bungalow at Rathoongodde.

Here I was first initiated into the mysteries of coffee growing, picking, and drying by Mr. Clerihew's new, ingenious, simple, and efficient process. I also witnessed the curious bug which for a time blights the plant, giving it a smoky, dingy, dark, and dead appearance, as if it had very recently emerged from the sootiest recess of an unswept London chimney. The other details of management of a well regulated coffee estate, are also to be seen there.

The park-like appearance of a portion of the scenery, with the singularly beautiful and varied effects of light and shade, rendered a ramble on the hills, through the woods, and down the dales, always and at all hours a pleasant and exhilarating occupation.

The waterfalls and water-courses with the most delightful of cold baths, and the little variation of temperature during the twenty-four hours caused an elasticity of feeling, unknown to the enervated frames of dwellers on the great plain of Hindustan.

Rathoongodde is elevated 3916 feet above the level of the sea, and appears to me to enjoy the very perfection of a mild, intermediate climate, better suited to the relaxed frame of an Indian invalid than the higher or lower ranges of the Kandian province.

The following table of meteorological observations was kept by Mr. Clerihew during 1850, and shows how very favored this fair region is by the atmospheric influences, upon which so much of health and its consequent happiness depends.

A curious phenomenon connected with the hygrometric state of the air of the place is, that no amount of damp, and the atmosphere is frequently filled with the dense, pure vapours that roll through the valley, causes mildew or mould.

1850.	Mean height of Thermometer at sun-rise.	Mean height of Thermometer at noon.	Mean height of Thermometer at sun-set.	Greatest rise of Thermometer.	Greatest fall of Thermometer.	Mean height of Barometer.	Number of fair days.	Number of rainy days.	Number of par- ticularly rainy days.
January,	59.5	67.3	65.3	74°	53°	26.054	21	4	6
February,	62.2	70.1	68.0	75	59	25.879	13	2	13
March,	63.3	70.3	68.5	74	62	25.874	21	1	9
April,	64.9	70.4	68.8	74	63	25.825	12	1	17
May,	64.7	73.3	69.6	75	63	25.818	23	0	8
June,	65.1	71.7	69.1	76	63	25.804	16	8	6
July,	65.8	74.5	70.1	78	64	25.814	27	0	4
August,	65.0	75.5	69.5	85	63	25.835	16	2	13
September,	63.9	73.0	68.7	80	62	25.884	16	2	12
October,	63.1	74.6	68.6	79	60	25.844	18	0	13
November,	62.3	70.9	67.4	79	58	25.866	12	6	12
December,	59.8	61.1	65.5	72	55	25.949	19	3	9
Annual Mean,	63.3	71.06	68.26	76.5	60.4	25.8705	214	29	122

The thermometer stood above 79° only three times during the year. The indications of the barometer are but slightly influenced either by wind or rain.

The difference between the largest and the shortest day is about one hour.

It would naturally be supposed that the exposed lives led by the planters would be productive of much disease among them, but so far as I could learn this appeared to be the case only with those who, not liking 'soft water, take to drinking *hard*.'

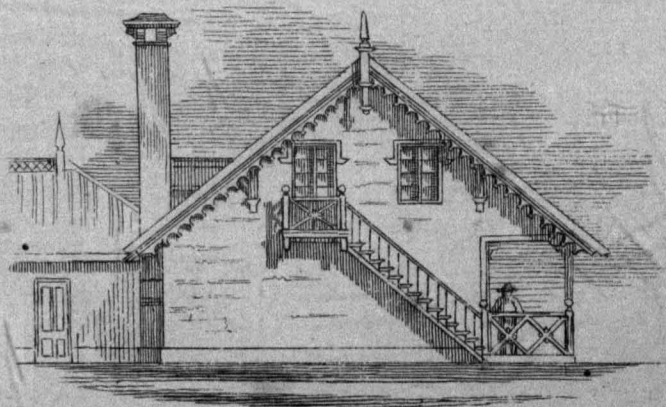
The greatest drawbacks to this retired life are the scantiness and inferior nature of the supplies procurable, and in many cases the damp, comfortless, unsightly shanties in which the planters shelter themselves.

There is no good pasturage for cattle, and except in the vicinity of the large stations bread and vegetables are scarce. The ordinary beef and mutton of the island afford the most violent exercise for the teeth that I ever experienced.

This state of things might, without any very extravagant outlay, be remedied. Every thing is so entirely sacrificed to coffee, that orchards and kitchen gardens are almost universally neglected.

The good taste and scientific skill of Mr. Clerihew have rendered Rathoongodde the model estate of the island. Independent of his improved method of drying coffee, he has constructed, chiefly, if not entirely, out of materials found on the spot, the prettiest and most picturesque of Swiss cottages, of which I am able, through his kindness, to produce here the counterfeit presentment.

Added to it is every convenience for a complete farm yard with garden, orchard, and every adjunct requisite to render it a classical retreat.



The next estate to Rathoongodde in the Maturata direction is that of Patulia, which is easy of access, and most romantically situated on the brink of a lofty precipice overhanging the valley.

From this I started at mid-day of the 2nd of February with mine host, the very beau ideal of the most accomplished and excellent of backs-woodmen, with the tastes and pursuits of a scholar united to the hardihood and daring of a pioneer of civilization. The first part of the trip was pleasant enough, but on descending the great valley, the fierce blaze of the unshaded sun affected me to such an extent, as to cause a violent palpitation that nearly expended me before we reached our retreat. Every small elevation seemed an inaccessible height, and the very attempt to expand the chest became at last so painful, that I was obliged to lie down upon the first large stone I fell in with, and relieve my troubled spirit with a series of groans which led the astonished coolie to believe that I was about to give up the ghost.

We slept at a small planter's cabin, and started the next morning for Newera Ellia, the road for the greater part of the way being a mere elephant path, ending in the rough outline of what was subsequently intended to be a road. The forest was full of wild elephants, and we came upon the most recent traces of many of them, but in all other respects the woods were singularly still and silent. The sun never penetrates to their deep recesses, where damp, gloom, and solitude reign undisturbed. At length we emerged upon a plain, and after walking a mile or two along a path cut in a peat soil, reached our destination at one o'clock in the afternoon.

The sun was powerful, and the glare painful after the subdued light of the dark forest, but beyond being foot-sore and fatigued, I suffered no damage from the trip. To my tried and trained companion it appeared a mere morning walk, so fresh and undisturbed was he when we gained the Rest House.

Newera Ellia, the chief Sanitarium of Ceylon, was accidentally discovered by a shooting party in 1828, during the government of Sir Edward Barnes. This energetic officer visited the spot himself shortly after it was made known, was struck with its peculiar appearance and diminished temperature, and determined to convert it into a convalescent station for the sick soldiery in the Ceylon command.

It was at that time apparently uninhabited, and frequented by the natives of the surrounding country for the purpose of elk hunting. It was only approachable by elephant tracks, and a narrow path formed by the elk hunters—hence the lateness of its discovery, after the conquest and occupation of the Kandian province.

It lies on a plateau of table-land 6200 feet above the level of the sea, surrounded by lofty hills, of which the chief, Pedro Tallagalla is 8280 feet above the sea, over-topping all the other mountains around it. Adam's Peak, the renowned place of pilgrimage, long supposed to be the highest point of the island, is only 7,420 feet in elevation. Pedro is fifty miles from the sea at its nearest point—the ocean being visible from its summit on a very clear day, but this is rather rare to find, as the valleys and crests of the

lower hills are constantly wreathed in the most spotless of flocculent looking mist, and the intermediate air is charged with a fine impenetrable vapour, that usually bounds the area of vision within a comparatively narrow compass. The plain, as it is not very correctly termed, is divided into two unequal portions by a low ridge of hills running from S. W. to N. East. The larger division is said to be about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, and $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile in breadth, and through it runs a river formed by numerous streamlets from the neighbouring mountains. At its lowest point it forms a species of semi-swamp, from which the valley is frequently filled with a dense fog, until the vapour is dissipated by the meridian sun. It was here proposed to excavate a lake, a proceeding that would be of infinite service to the station, and add much to its healthiness and beauty. It would not be a work of great cost or difficulty, would be a profitable source of employment to the soldiers of the detachment quartered there, and also give occupation for some time to come to the number of drunken, idle European invalids, who are now beginning to congregate at the place. It would drain the whole of the table-land, cause greater uniformity of temperature in the station, and would, in every point of view, be a work of great public utility. The river that runs through it, is one of the principal feeders of the Mahawelli Gunga.

The smaller division of the table-land is a considerable ravine, bounded by undulating hillocks, and traversed by a good road. In it are placed the barracks, officers' quarters, magistrate's cutcherry, post-office, commissariat store, and a very neat little Gothic church, the interior of which is the finest and prettiest specimen of that order, which I have fallen in with in the East.

There is still a third and smaller subdivision of the plateau, which is entirely barren and waste, with a soil of black peat. The approach to Newera Ellia from the Elephant Plains is through this barren desert, in which the red-flowered rhododendron alone appears to flourish.

The soil of Newera Ellia is said to be extremely fertile, and to be well suited for all sorts of European vegetables, cereals, and other products of temperate climates. In the gardens of the station may be seen every variety of rose, dahlia, mignonette, heart's ease, and excellent strawberries. Wild raspberries are also abundant, but the peach and the cherry do not flourish—the former never ripens, and the latter seldom blossoms. The constant rains and little variation in season seem to be prejudicial to the successful cultivation of many varieties of European plants, for which the soil and other circumstances appear to be well adapted.

There used to be, and probably are still, two Rest Houses, one of which is excellent and contains quarters for ladies, a portion of the creation for whom little provision is usually made in the island. The charges were moderate, and, considering all things, the supplies were good. The dearest thing through-

out the colony is human labour, and little of this that is worth having is procurable.

During the time of my stay, with the exception of two days, the weather was pleasant, but must be somewhat trying to the weak and delicate. Early in the morning the ground was covered with crisp, sparkling hoar-frost. After sunrise the temperature rose considerably, and the direct rays of the great luminary were unpleasantly warm, while it was cool, by contrast even cold, in the shade.

The evenings were extremely chilly, and rendered a bright, blazing, cheerful wood fire a necessity. The mean annual temperature is said to be $53\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ F. at 6 A. M.— $63\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ at Noon— $60^{\circ}\frac{5}{12}$ at 6 P. M. The thermometer never rises above 70° F. in the shade, and no injury results at any season from free exposure to the sun's rays. I found it almost impossible to keep warm at night, and a plunge in one of the small natural baths excavated by the river in its course behind the rest house, was a serious trial to the nerves, yet withal, most invigorating, once the plaguy plunge had been taken.

The wet weather at Newera Ellia lasts from May to December, and sets in with the S. W. Monsoon that blows up the Bay of Bengal. It is scarcely possible to imagine anything more dreary, gloomy, and suicidal-looking than a thorough day of rain under the lee of Pedro. How the regular residents survive a prolonged continuance of it, was a puzzle to me. During the remainder of the year the sky is generally clear and cloudless, but from the chain of lofty hills by which it is surrounded, the place is never altogether free from rain, dews, and heavy mists.

From its elevation it labours under the same disadvantages as most hill climates, with their diminished atmospheric pressure, yet it is bracing, invigorating, and beneficial in removing the effects of disease contracted in the plains of Hindustan. It produces a peculiar stimulant, exhilarating effect upon the spirits, renders active exercise in the open air a species of necessity, and with the improvement of digestion, and the important functions dependent upon it for their proper exercise, exerts a most beneficial influence on the general health.

According to Dr. Beatson, who was in charge of the Sanitarium for three years, the diseases most likely to benefit by a residence at Newera Ellia are "functional derangements of the gastric, hepatic, enteritic, and nervous systems, unaccompanied by organic lesion; fevers uncomplicated with local affections; debility arising from tedious convalescence, or long residence within the tropics; and almost all the diseases of children."

Children in all circumstances thrive there more than adults, and grow up as strong, healthy, robust, and vigorous as in Europe.

To those who have recovered health, and are able to enjoy field sports and active existence in the open air, Newera Ellia is an admirable spot. In its immediate vicinity elk hunting and elephant shooting, may be thoroughly

enjoyed, while smaller game abound in every direction. The ascent of Pedro alone affords ample scope for constant and severe exercise, combined with a never-ending interest in the magnificent views obtained at various points towards its summit. The path is clear, and usually practicable even for ponies. By foot passengers it may be accomplished leisurely, and without much fatigue in a couple of hours, the return occupying not more than the half of that time. The summit is nearly bare, and covered by a species of cairn of rough hewn stones, with an extemporaneous flag-staff formed by the straight boughs of trees. Adam's Peak appears at hand, and the most magnificent primeval forests are seen in every direction, particularly on the side of Dimbolah. The whole sweep of the Maturata valley is scanned on a clear day, and it would be difficult, I think, to find in any part of the world anything more striking and beautiful.

The sides of Pedro are densely clothed with vegetation, and the rhododendron arboreum is found at the very summit.

Beyond the table-land, and easy of access, are the Elephant Plains, leading to the Ouda Pusilava range of hills—Wilson's Plains—the Badula district—and an extensive view of the low Bintenne country, inhabited by a wild race, little superior to the higher order of quadramana in intelligence and civilization.

The planters in every direction are kind-hearted, hospitable, and most obliging to strangers; while the wandering about among these wild hills, with the occasional difficulties to be surmounted, is the most delightful of all contrasts to the unvarying, dull, listless life of the plains of India.

I should strongly advise every traveller who intends to make any stay in the hills to purchase stout, serviceable, sure-footed ponies or mules at Kandy, where they are generally to be had at a reasonable cost. My experience in this line was not very satisfactory, as both the purchases I made came down with me, fortunately without much damage; but it was entirely my own fault, as the sacrifice of a few additional rupees would have secured me against any such catastrophe. There is no difficulty in effecting a re-sale when leaving the country, and at little loss, if the original purchase has been judicious. The wonderful instinct and certainty with which these animals scramble up and down declivities covered with mis-shapen stones of formidable dimensions, and occasionally crossed by the trunk of some prostrate giant of the forests, is surprising to those who have long been accustomed to smooth roads and a level country. Until a little experience instils confidence, it is rather a nervous matter to canter along a bridle path scarped out of the side of a huge hill, with a precipitous descent of awful depth into a roaring stream, or an impenetrable jungle at the base, the sure receptacle of the unlucky wight who makes a false step. The long, smooth, lemon grass that covers the patnas—as the naked ridges are called—frequently cover large masses of rock that render the path nearly impracticable. I remember in one place, near St. Margaret's, the planters with whom I was journeying dismounted,

and sent their ponies on ahead at a dangerous spot where one of them had a short time previously nearly lost his life. As soon as we dismounted, I was compelled to become my own porter, and carry the carpet bag which until then had been borne by the horse-keeper. While toiling along under the unaccustomed burthen, I suddenly stumbled against one of these hidden rocks, and fairly rolled down the side of the hill, carrying away one or two ants' nests, full of horrid looking inhabitants nearly as long as an ordinary sized wasp. I was brought up suddenly near the foot of the hill by the trunk of a rhododendron, and found myself, in an immeasurably short space of time, seated disconsolately upon the unlucky carpet bag. The whole disaster was so sudden and noiseless, that my companions did not perceive my absence until my fall, like Phaeton's, had been accomplished. It took nearly an hour of most fatiguing exertion to recover the ground lost in two or three minutes.

The greatest annoyance attendant upon wandering in the Ceylon woods, is the presence, in countless myriads, of a most active, persevering, and penetrating land leech. I never made the acquaintance of such determined, ferocious, sanguinary monsters, inferior only to the polar variety of mosquito, fabled by arctic travellers to be able to bite through the sole of a boot.

In a quiescent state, these plagues are small, brown, and not unlike a juvenile specimen of the ordinary medicinal variety, but in sprightliness, activity, and determined hostility to man and animals, they are far beyond their civilized prototypes. They hop along the ground like grasshoppers, or suspend themselves from leaves and branches of trees, to assault at all points the red-blooded objects of their animosity. They can stretch themselves out nearly as fine as a hair or a thread to wriggle through the meshes of a stocking, or a woollen garment, and need no coaxing with "sugar, and spice, and all that's nice" to induce them to bite in the right place. The most effectual protection against them is the leech gaiter worn by planters, and the best means of dissolving their unholy alliance with the skin, is to touch them with brandy, salt, lime juice, acids generally, or earth oil. It is not advisable to dislodge them forcibly, as they are then apt to cause irritable wounds, which in persons of bad constitution may degenerate into formidable ulcers, causing destruction both of life and limb. They delight in damp, grassy, jungly situations, but eschew the cold tops of the higher mountains. Pedro and Newera Ellia are fortunately beyond the range of their incursions.

Ceylon abounds in most of the annoyances of tropical climates. Snakes, centipedes, ants of infinite variety and huge dimensions, with the worst and most destructive of them all, the white ant, cockroaches, mosquitoes, mis-shapen spiders, ticks, scorpions, et id genus omne of domestic monster are found in myriads.

The botany, geology, and natural history of this famous island are most interesting and will afford a perpetual source of amusement and occupation to those given to such pursuits. They are beyond the province of my very brief sketch, yet will forcibly strike all who wander through this land of many names and ancient historical associations.



NOTE ON INDIAN LABOURERS IN REUNION.

Since my return to Bengal, I have seen occasional statements in the public prints respecting the condition of Indian coolies in the island of Reunion, which led me to believe that very erroneous opinions are generally entertained upon the subject. These are not only unjust towards the French authorities, but are calculated to create a strong prejudice against facilities being afforded to the free exportation of a larger portion of the vast surplus population of Hindustan, to an interesting colony, in which their labour is much required, and where the results of their introduction must as certainly be of great benefit to themselves.

Be that, however, as it may, it appears to me to be wrong to permit any unjust suspicions to pervade the public mind, which I am able from personal observation to remove. Although I made no attempt to acquire political information in the island of Reunion, I did not deem it a breach of hospitality to note the condition of the Indian labourers whenever they fell in my way. Most persons with whom I conversed were free and unreserved in their communications, and to one of them I am indebted for copies of several of the Government ordinances regarding the immigrants. Indeed there was nothing to conceal, or regarding which the authorities could not have courted the strictest enquiry, were any inquiry necessary.

The climate of Bourbon, although probably one of the finest and most healthy in the whole world for Europeans, is extremely prejudicial to the Negro race. This, combined with their confirmed and inveterate habits of drunkenness and profligacy, when in a state of slavery, caused the French authorities many years since to turn their attention to India and China for the future supply of labour. The entire extinction of the African population was regarded by many as a certain result of the lapse of time, and the utmost anxiety was felt, lest the Colony should thus be entirely ruined, and rendered utterly useless, if not a burthen, to the mother-country, except as a Sanitarium for the unhealthy stations in Madagascar.

A few Indian servants and Chinese must have found their way to Bourbon, in vessels trading to and from Asia, very many years ago, and provision was early made for their proper treatment, as well as for their deportation in the event of their becoming dangerous, useless, or a burthen to the Colony.

I have not been able to learn the precise period at which the importation of coolies from the Coromandel coast regularly commenced. I believe that it was shortly after the publication of an able and very elaborate statistical report furnished to the Government of Charles the Xth, by a Mons. Thomas, and published in Paris in 1826. In this work was pointed out, and proved by elaborate calculations extending over a series of years, the rapid decadence of the slave population, and the ruinous effects produced by it on a country of which not more than a fifth part of the soil had ever been brought under cultivation, in its most prosperous periods.

In July 1829, in the *Bulletin des Acts administratifs de L' Ile Bourbon*, appeared an Act relative to Indian and Chinese labourers, or other individuals of the free population of Asia.

In the preamble to the act, reference is made to a royal ordinance of August 21st, 1825, and to a local act of the 18th January 1826, the latter showing the terms on which Indian servants under personal engagement to an inhabitant, may obtain a limited permit (of residence) their masters being compelled to enter on the police register an engagement to furnish the funds to cover the expenses which the removal of their servants from the Colony might occasion. It also alludes to the authority for removing dangerous persons from the Colony, and for preventing those without the means of existence, and without a guarantee for following some profession or engaging in some lucrative occupation, gaining admission to it.

This act contained the following provisions, viz. :—

Compelling all persons residing in Bourbon who brought Indian, Chinese, or other free persons from Asia, to produce their contract or engagement with them, before a Commission appointed by the act in question.

Ruling that all such labourers and their families should be maintained by their employers and that their daily food should consist of,

80* décagrammes of rice.

12 décagrammes of dried legumes or salt fish.

And 15† grammes of salt when supplied with fresh vegetables, or an equivalent amount of other nutritious substances.

A change of diet could only be effected, by proof being afforded to the Commission of the consent of the labourers, upon being made acquainted with the reason or necessity for a departure from the first mentioned scale.

The head of the family was never to receive lower wages than ten francs a month.

Every employer of Asiatic labourers was bound to provide for their medical attendance in sickness, the maintenance of the infirm, and the means of sending them back to their native country, and to make certain specified deductions from their wages to accomplish those objects.

No deductions from wages were allowed to be made on account of the cost of the transport of the labourers to the Colony.

The Commission was to sit at St. Denis, and to consist of four landed proprietors or merchants, nominated by the Government, and of the Government Notary.

A 'Commissaire de l'Administration' intended to be equivalent, I imagine, to our Protector of Immigrants, was also nominated from among the public functionaries of the Colony.

* The décagramme is equivalent to not quite 154 $\frac{1}{2}$ grains Avoirdupois.

† The gramme is equal to nearly 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ English grains.

All the offices were honorary.

The Commission chose its own President and Vice-president, and named its own Secretary, as well as fixed the amount of his salary.

Three formed a quorum for business.

The 'Commissaire de l'Administration' was charged with the execution of the provisions of the decree, and was the active officer of the commission, assisting at their deliberations when he deemed it necessary, and offering his advice upon all points considered of public interest, &c.

He reported to the Director General of the Interior his representations and remarks.

The Secretary kept a general register of the labourers, in which all matters regarding them and their families were recorded.

The Secretary reported immediately on its occurrence to the President, or in his absence to the Vice-president, every case that required consideration.

The ordinary meetings of the Commission were held on the 20th of each month:—the President or Vice-president could summon extraordinary meetings whenever necessary.

The Commission corresponded through their President with the Director General of the Interior, or any other public functionary with whom it was necessary to communicate.

The Commission were to ascertain if the contract were strictly legal, and if the landholder who entered into the engagement were in a position to fulfil its conditions.

When the Commission found a contract to be *en règle*, the President signed it, and it was presented to the Commissary of Police, who was empowered to receive the subscription allowed to provide for the return passage to India of the labourers.

After all these formalities had been complied with, the license of residence was granted by the Government.

The pay of the labourers was to be issued on the first Sunday of each month at the Mayoralty, in the presence of a municipal officer, and was registered on a pay abstract prepared beforehand by the employer. When the pay had been issued, and the abstract filled up, it was signed and authenticated by the Mayor, and transmitted to the Commission.

The Commission were to see that all assignments (legal stoppages) from the pay were regularly made, and were aided by the Government in giving such facilities as depended upon it for the accomplishment of this object.

Mutual consent was required to cancel an engagement. The cancelment required to be submitted to the Commission and verified.

In all disputes between the contractors and the labourers, both parties had the right to submit the case to the Commission for official consideration. The Commission could in turn refer the labourer who had a plaint to make, to a court of consultation, legally constituted for the purpose of investigating such cases.

The Commission, without prejudice to the legal rights of other authorities, could propose to the Government the deportation of all labourers considered dangerous to the Colony, as well as those whose contract had been voluntarily cancelled, or who had been ill treated, or who required removal from other causes cognizable by law; particularly if the labourers did not enter into some other service, or adopt some other means of gaining a livelihood.

The Commission was empowered to nominate one or more chief interpreters to aid them in their function of supervision.

In case of need it could send these interpreters out into the districts to acquire information, or into the establishments of individuals, upon the requisition of the proprietor.

The remuneration of the Secretary, of the interpreters, and the cost of the Commission generally was to be borne by those inhabitants who engaged labourers. The amount was to be divided among them in proportion to the number of labourers in their employ at the beginning of the year. A fractional share was paid for all labourers arriving during the year.

Upon the requisition of the President, every one who presented his contract to the Commission was obliged to deposit in the Secretary's office four bonds, of which each assured the payment of the expenses of the administration at the expiration of the quarter noted on it.

The cost of the administration was published annually, and any balance of receipts over expenditure carried to the credit of the following year.

Measures were specified to ensure the fulfilment of the contract by the inhabitants, and to provide a camping ground for the labourers on their arrival in the Colony which was also to serve as a central place for the celebration of their religious festivals.

The provisions of this act were somewhat modified in 1831, by a local act dated the 16th of May of that year, appointing a special agent called a Syndic to act as the representative of the coolies, and to be an intermediate agent between them and the Commission.

The change was the result of a despatch from the Colonial (Marine) Minister of France, who also recommended that no special expenses should be entailed on the employers of Indian labourers, which might finally press upon them.

In June 1849, the Commissary General of the Republic published in the Reunion Gazette a notification upon the subject. He fixed the number of coolies to be imported annually, regulated the terms of contract for minors, who were never to be engaged without the consent of, or unless accompanied by their parents or guardians; declared that at least ten per cent. of women, and if possible a third, should accompany each batch of immigrants; determined that four persons for every five tons of actual register should be the maximum amount to be carried by each ship,—the ballast and space devoted to cargo being deducted from the tonnage—and laid down the rules and regulations for the supply of provisions, medicines, the formalities to be observed in shipping and disembarking coolies, quarantine, &c. &c.

One of the most important provisions of this Act was to levy a fine of from five to twenty francs per immigrant upon all Captains of vessels convicted of having failed to give to the labourers during their passage, the full rations to which they are legally entitled. This fine was independent of any police imprisonment, or action for damages from the parties concerned, to which they might be liable.

On the 18th of the same month of 1849, a supplementary order was published by the same officer, ruling that the four persons per five tons, including the captain and crew, were to be independent of the deduction made from the space occupied by merchandize or other matters in every part of the ship, except the hold.

Indians were likewise only to be stowed between decks, (on the gun deck) on the quarter deck or poop, and on the forecastle.

The same penalty as mentioned in the former order, was to be inflicted for any breach of the regulations.

I was told by those well acquainted with the subject, that the provisions of these acts are the measures at present in force regarding the coolies, and that all subsequent modifications have been entirely in favour of the labourers, so anxious are the authorities of the Colony to protect and encourage them.

In 1846 a crisis occurred in the affairs of the Colony. While 35,000,000* killogrammes or about 77,000,000 lbs of sugar had been produced, and the value of the exports of the island had been raised to eighteen millions of francs, yielding in customs revenue to the mother-country upon all the products of the island 16,000,000 of francs, the country was on the verge of bankruptcy from deficiency of labour.

There were then on the sea coast nearly 15,000 acres of land, fertile and productive, which had been abandoned for want of cultivators.

The number of plantations gradually ceasing to be wrought were increasing, and in the interior there was a vast extent of cultivable soil in a virgin state.

* A killogramme is equal to a very small fraction more than 2½ lbs Avoirdupois English weight.

A strong and earnest appeal was addressed to the king, Louis Philippe, in which the following expressions occur :

"In France men are without work, here labour wants men. Sire! our situation has become intolerable. The cost of black cultivators (slaves) exceeds 3000 francs (£ 120); in the course of a few years the price of a day's labour has risen from one franc to two francs and a half, and this frightful advance has not yet reached its maximum. From this exorbitant state, the advantageous results that would have followed the new laws regarding sugar are annihilated; bankruptcy and ruin will soon replace the legitimate profits upon which we have a right to count as the reward of our exertions.

"In these critical circumstances we appeal to the high reason of Your Majesty.

"The continents of Africa and Asia possess a numerous population living in the most extreme misery. Under wise protective measures, and guarantees for moderate wages issued by the Colonial Council, they would, as in the case of the Mauritius, yield us all the labourers we require to make up the deficiency that is daily increasing in our work-shops, from voluntary manumissions and the disproportion of the sexes.

"These strangers, after having aided in the increase of our crops, and the extension of our commercial relations with the metropolis, would carry back to their own countries some traces of our civilization, of our language, and of the habit of consuming the products of French industry. They would themselves become agents of civilization in their own country, as well as create new outlets for our national industry.

"The immigration of free labourers would thus become an eminently philanthropic work, and it is with the hope that our request dictated by imperious necessity, will be favourably received, that we venture to solicit from your Government authority to introduce them into our colony."

I have not seen the royal ordinances that followed this appeal, but from it may probably be dated the active and systematic introduction of labourers from the Coromandel coast, in supercession of the uncertain supply that previously found its way to the island.

The measures for the purpose, I have reason to believe, were completely organized as above mentioned in 1849, from which time, until recently, the importation has been carried on extensively.

The following is, as far as I have been able to ascertain, the general plan of proceeding now adopted.

The coolies are collected by a special agent at the expense of a ship-owner, and are brought before the French Authorities at Pondicherry or Karikal, by whom they are separately examined as to their transmission to Bourbon with their own free-will and consent.

The engagement which each enters into, to work in Bourbon for three, four, or five years, is entered on duplicate papers.

The conditions of salary, which vary according to the supposed quality, skill, and pretensions of the individual, with his scale of rations, &c. are all inscribed.

The act of engagement also indicates the advances which are made to the coolies before their departure, as well as the legal deductions authorized to enable them to return to India, or to subsist on the expiration of their engagement should they have been improvident or careless while in employ. These sums are deposited in the custody of the special Syndic or immigrant agent. As a general rule their wages are calculated to begin from the first fortnight of their arrival in the Colony.

The controller invariably covenants to furnish the coolies with food and medical attendance in sickness, however protracted it may be; the daily wages are, however, not paid for such periods as the labourer is unable to work.

He also covenants in the event of the coolie running away, or failing to fulfil his part of the contract from vagrancy, to deduct two days' wages for each day of absence without leave.

If a coolie is convicted by a legal tribunal for civil offences, and sentenced to fine, the amount is deducted from his savings, the proprietor of the coolie being compelled to advance the sum in anticipation, whatever may be its amount. The expense of punishing coolies is only borne by the state in criminal cases.

On board ship each coolie is allowed a certain amount of space as above stated, and he is victualled according to a fixed scale, as mentioned below.

On the 23rd of June 1849, a decree No. 46 relative to Indian Immigrants was published at Pondicherry, to give effect to the local acts of the government of Reunion, and the despatches of the Minister of Marine.

By its provisions immigration agencies were established at Pondicherry and Karikal, and the functions of the agents defined. The 'Mestrys,' or recruiting agents of Immigrants were placed under their immediate orders, with power to punish them in case of misconduct. The medical examination of coolies, and their regular registry were provided for, care was taken to ascertain if any fraud or impropriety was committed in causing them to come forward, and if they declared that they came of their own free will, a police passport was granted to them, with three months advance of pay. All the conditions of their engagements were to be carefully explained to them; and minute directions were given for the complete inspection of the ships in which they were to be transmitted to their destination.

The age for contracting engagements was fixed at 21 years, and the 'Mestrys' were made to sign a declaration in the presence of the clerk of a Justice of the Peace, that all persons who presented themselves in the capacity of husband, father, mother, sister, brother, uncle, or any other relation of married women or minors, were really what they professed to be.

Provision was also made for the punishment of any fraud or violence committed towards the coolies in regard to their engagements.

On the 6th of July of the same year, an order, No. 117 of that date, was published at the same place, fixing the age of engagement of coolies at 18 years, declaring that the medical functions regarding them should only be discharged by surgeons of the French navy, or civil surgeons with regular diplomas, and making minor changes in some of the subsidiary provisions concerning Mestries.

On the 23rd of July 1849, order No. 120, containing more detailed provisions for the execution of the local acts of the Reunion Government, were promulgated at Pondicherry in the ordinary official Gazette.

Every coolie ship was compelled to have suitable boats in good condition, and of dimensions proportioned to the tonnage of the vessels. Three wind-sails were also to be provided in each ship.

Every such vessel was also to be furnished with the following scale of provisions, calculated for a voyage of 50 days—viz :

For each man daily,...	{	3*	litres of water.
		80*	décagrammes of rice.
		10	„ of salt fish.
		16*	Grammes of mantegue.
		40	Grammes of dhal.
		10	„ of salt.
		20	„ of tamarinds.
		7	„ of curry powder.
		5	„ of onions.
		2	billets of wood.

* The litre is equal to 1.760 pints, the décagramme to 154.340 grains, and the gramme to nearly 15½ grains.

In addition there was to be carried for the whole voyage—

1. 1600 grammes of lard (in case of bad weather) for each man.
2. 45 kilogrammes (each of 2.2048571 lbs. avoirdupois) of pepper per 100 men.
3. 20 pumpkins for every hundred men.

In provisions two children under 16 years of age were reckoned as one man; but the same supply of water was granted to all of whatever age.

A certain proportion of the water was allowed to be furnished by a distilling apparatus, to be kept in good working order.

The medicine chest was to contain for every 100 men—

Opium, ...	52 grammes.
Sulphuric Ether, ...	32
Ammonia, ...	16
Castor Oil, ...	500
Sulphate of Soda or Magnesia, ...	400
Liquid Sulphuret of Potassium, ...	1000
Or, Anti-psoric Ointment, ...	400
Diachylon Plaster, ...	100
Alum, ...	16
Chloride of Sodium, ...	3000
Lint, ...	30
Carded Cotton, ...	100
Ipecacuana, half in powder, ...	24
Mustard (in flour), ...	350
Sugar for Ptisans, ...	1000
Camphorated Spirits, ...	1000
Mercurial Ointment, ...	150
Liquorice, ...	350
Dressing Lint $\frac{1}{4}$ of a piece of 14 conjons.	

The exact tonnage was to be certified.

Infants under age accompanying their parents, to be furnished with clothing.

The sanitary state of the ship was to be reported daily by the Captain while in harbour.

The functions of the Health Commission were to be exercised by any medical officer with a recognized diploma.

No ship was to be allowed to depart without a special certificate of all necessary formalities having been complied with.

A few minor regulations have subsequently been promulgated, in the same spirit as, and for purposes analogous to those above-mentioned. They are not of sufficient interest or importance to need special mention.

Immediately on the arrival of a coolie ship in the Roadstead of St. Denis, its sanitary condition is enquired into before the labourers are disembarked. In the event of any contagious disorder existing on board, they are sent to perform quarantine at a lazaretto in the ravine of St. Jacques. When they are disembarked at St. Denis itself, they are sent to perform a simple quarantine in a very large establishment situated at the foot of the mountains, at a distance of about two miles from the town. There, or at the houses of certain medical officers selected by the Government, they are all vaccinated.

During this time their written contracts are presented to, and examined by the proper authorities, and made over to the Syndic.

As soon as they are released from quarantine, the Syndic identifies each of them, according to the descriptive roll furnished. The coolie is required to state his age, name, caste,

his father's name, and the place of his birth; and any particular marks of identification present in the individual are noted.

The whole of these particulars are copied from the general register into a book containing the copy of his engagement, and of the rules and laws relating to him, and this book is made over to the coolie himself to enable him at all times to know his duty and obligations, and to claim the fulfilment of all rights to which he is entitled. The labourer is compelled to carry this with him wherever he goes as a permit of residence, and species of ticket of leave, as well as to afford him protection from arrest or molestation.

The stipulated engagement entered into with the ship-owner at Pondicherry arms him with authority to transfer his right and title to the landed proprietor in Bourbon requiring labourers, the terms of cession being a matter of personal bargain between them. The transfer requires subsequently to be legalized by the Syndic, who enters it in the general register and inscribes it in the coolies' book also.

It is this circumstance, and the fluctuation in the price of labour which raises or depresses the value of the contracts, that has given rise to the erroneous impression in India of the coolies being sold as slaves.

The actual and average prices of the purchase of the contracts of different gangs of coolies are published in the local journals, without a statement of the circumstances in which the sales have been effected, because these are well known on the spot. Hence the misapprehension at a distance.

The working hours of the coolies are from six in the morning to six in the evening, with two hours interval for bathing, eating, and rest. Their food is cooked by one of their own caste, who has no other occupation.

No corporal punishment of any description is allowed to be inflicted by the landholders on the coolies. All offences of every description require to be reported to a Justice of the Peace, who can inflict punishment according to the gravity of the offence to the extent of fifteen days' imprisonment, with labour on the roads and in the public works. If they turn out incorrigible vagabonds, the ultimate punishment is transportation to the Coromandel coast.

In criminal matters they are liable to the provisions of the Code Napoleon.

My impression certainly is that they are treated with the greatest kindness and consideration by the Government; that their punishments are lighter than those of the free Negro population for the same offences—probably because they are physically less capable of bearing up against harsh treatment—and that every means is taken to render them contented with their lot, and to induce them to settle on the island.

The number of women who accompany the coolies is about in the proportion of ten per cent. As in the Mauritius, they seemed to me to be of a very low order, and are probably seldom, if ever, the wives of the men they accompany.

I heard the number of Indian labourers in the island very variously estimated. Some numbered them as high as 30,000 others rated them lower than 20,000. Between 23 and 24,000, is I believe, not far from the actual number at present in the Colony. At least 50,000 are necessary to supply the full wants of the island.

They are somewhat an improvident set, fond of spending their wages in finery and amusements, and seldom have a spare rupee when their terms of engagement have expired. This was told to me by some of those whom I fell in and conversed with, natives of the Deccan. I frequently met them going to market in the morning, and the majority were in excellent condition. Prejudices of caste rapidly disappear, and although they talk about the dignity of their social position in their own country, religious scruples seem to interfere little with their wants and wishes as far as they are capable of gratifying them.

Many have settled in the country and become petty traders, and several are employed as servants in private families.

Although provision is made for their return to India, few avail themselves of it, so far as I could learn. Some of those with whom I conversed were undoubtedly British subjects from the Carnatic and Mysore territories, from the Deccan, and others were from the Nizam's dominions. It is probably not safe or correct to attach any importance to their own statements, as no two agreed exactly in their account of the manner of their engagements. They professed to be generally satisfied with their lot, and to be kindly treated. The only thing they complained of was the denial of the indulgence of the erratic propensities to which this class is so liable, from whimsical causes and mere love of change.

All deserters are quickly apprehended by the Gens d'Armes; a mounted police of European Dragoons, few in number, but the most efficient body of men for such purposes, that I have seen in the East. The deserters are tied together by the wrists and made to trot before the Gens d'Armes, always two in number, until they are made over to the judicial authorities. They are not otherwise harshly treated, in any way that I saw or heard.

There is a special hospital for Indian immigrants, and the native inhabitants of the island generally, where the sick receive every care and attention.

The above statement embodies the particulars that I was able to gather regarding the condition of Indian Labourers in Reunion, and I am convinced that they are much cared for, and well treated by the French authorities.

There can be no doubt, I think, that India possesses a vast surplus population more than the West India Islands, and those in the southern division of the Indian Ocean can possibly absorb as labourers, and that when carefully managed and justly governed as I know them, from personal observation, to be, both in Bourbon and the Mauritius, they are far better off than in their own homes.

They leave India full of prejudices, utterly ignorant, and as low in the scale of humanity as it is possible to imagine such beings to be.

They acquire in their transmarine experience, habits of thought and independence, a knowledge of improved means of cultivation, a taste for a higher order of amusements, a greater pride of personal appearance, and an approach to manliness of character, rarely, if ever, seen in the same class in their native villages. They are loosed from the trammels of caste, and abject submission to priestcraft which renders them so unprofitable a race at home. They are removed from the blighting influence, and extortionate exaction of native Zemindars, and other depressing agencies, and protected, almost to an injurious extent, in the exaction of their rights.

The spread of such men throughout the villages of Hindustan cannot fail to be beneficial, and, in my humble estimation, ought to be encouraged to the utmost limit of which it is susceptible.

They bring back wealth, vigour of body and such enlargement of mind as can be acquired in their sphere of life.

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