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MEMOIR

OF

HENDRICK BECKER,

GOVERNOR AND DIRECTOR OF CEYLON,

FOR HIS SUCCESSOR,



ISAAC AUGUSTYN RUMPF,

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1716.

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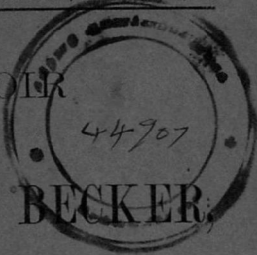
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Memoirs and Instructions of Dutch Governors, Commandeurs, &c.

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INTRODUCTION.

HENDRICK BECKER had been in Ceylon as a Captain in the Military Service of the Dutch East India Company some time previous to his return here as Governor. He is mentioned in Governor de Heere's Diary of his tour to Jaffnapatnam in 1697 as one of the deputation which met the Governor at Negombo. He succeeded Cornelis Joan Simons in the Government of Ceylon on December 22, 1707, and, after nine years' rule, left Ceylon for Europe on December 7, 1716, as Admiral of the Return Fleet. He was married to Anna Catharina Collardt, and died at Amsterdam in 1722.

In the Memoir left by Baron van Imhoff for his successor in 1740, that Governor describes the changes of policy introduced at various periods in the Government of Ceylon, chiefly in regard to the native inhabitants of the Island, and he divides the history of the period antecedent to his arrival into three distinct epochs. The first, which ended about the close of the rule of Governor van Rhee (1697), he characterizes as a period in which the authority of the Company was maintained with a strong hand and by force of arms, in opposition even to the King of Kandy; so that the Company might enjoy as a matter of right the advantages which it had purchased at so much cost. This was the policy advocated by the famous Governor Rycklof van Goens, for which the arguments offered were then considered to be sound and reasonable. During the next period, which may be said to have commenced with the rule of Governor de Heere, a milder policy was adopted. The natives were now treated with special kindness, with a view to gain their affection and goodwill. Liberal concessions were made to them in the occupation and cultivation of lands, and efforts were made to secure for the Company the good offices of the native chiefs by trust and confidence. The plan, however, does not appear to have worked well. The trust and confidence so imposed appear to have been in most cases abused, and many of the Company's own officers were

found to have perverted the policy of their superiors to aid in depriving the "lords of the land" of their lawful revenue. One result of this policy, to quote the words of Governor van Imhoff, was that "the Company lost much good and profitable territory." In the northern district lands are said "to have been filched from the Company and usurped..... without any title or deed," and in the south it is stated "how shamefully the natives used to deal with the Company's revenue, appropriating the greater part of it to themselves. They also usually usurped and cultivated the best and most fertile fields without paying revenue to the lawful lord of the land, leaving only the worst for the Company, from which also no profit was obtained, as they rendered false accounts of receipt and expenditure." Other evil consequences are said to have followed in the wake of these, and the Company was compelled to again change its policy. A third period was therefore inaugurated with the commencement of the rule of Governor Becker. What his course of action was is best described in his own words: "From the commencement," he says, "I made it a point to endeavour by every available means to discover the real state of affairs, and with God's blessing I have worked on steadily from year to year, and have been in a position to expose all the fraud and to lift the veil from the subtle mysteries presented before the eyes of rulers by dishonest servants." Again he says, "I met with many obstacles and much opposition, especially because the evils I proposed to redress were long standing." With a good deal of pardonable egotism he proceeds to enumerate the various reforms effected by him, by which larger revenues were obtained than "at any time previous to my rule."

Meanwhile his relations with the Kandyan Court were, on the whole, of an amicable description. When some rebel Wannias appealed to the king against the Dutch with presents and offers of submission, "the King not only refused to grant an audience to the embassy.....but had them put in chains, and sent to us with their credentials to be punished according to their deserts for their audacious conduct. At first His Majesty was so roused by the occurrence that he would have had the men beheaded then and there, but his courtiers

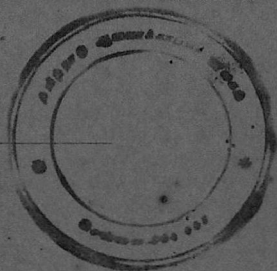
intervened and pacified him." He was a young king, who had ascended the throne just at the time Becker assumed the reins of Government, of whom Valentyn says : " This Prince was then but 17 years of age, of a very wild disposition, who showed in all his acts to be a dangerous man and a great tyrant." Yet during the period of Becker's rule there was no trouble between him and the Dutch, except for slight differences with regard to the closing of the gravets and the persistent efforts on the part of the Kandyans to have the ports opened. This was said to be clearly due to the intrigues of the king's courtiers.

That Becker's was, on the whole, a successful administration, so far as the Dutch East India Company was concerned, may be gathered from the following brief passage, which is all that Valentyn vouchsafes to the subject : " As to the Government of the Heer Bekker, this gave the Lords XVII. so much satisfaction that they made him a Councillor in Ordinary of Netherlands-India three years after his assumption of office, viz., in 1710. His Honour, however, remained in Ceylon with great acceptance up to the year 1716, when he left as Admiral of the Return Fleet, and settled down in Amsterdam, where he departed this life in August, 1722."—*Byzondere Zaaken*, p. 351.

The quaint spelling of the names of places has been retained throughout the translation, no attempt having been made to alter the spelling, even where the same name appeared differently spelt in different places.

R. G. ANTHONISZ,
Government Archivist.

Colombo, February, 1914.



MEMOIR

Compiled by Hendrick Becker, Extraordinary Councillor of India and Governor of this Island of Ceylon and its Dependencies, for his Successor, Isaac Augustyn Rumpf,¹ Extraordinary Councillor of India and Governor-elect, to serve as a guide until receipt of further Orders from our Lords and Masters and from the Supreme Government of India at Batavia so far as time and circumstances will permit.

WHEREAS it has pleased Their Excellencies, our Superiors, to relieve me, on my repeated application, from the weighty charge of this important Government, and to appoint Your Honour as my successor, and they have desired me expressly to compile and leave with Your Honour a Memoir or Instructions relative to the manner in which the affairs and interests of the Company in this country are to be guarded and promoted, I will, in compliance with the said esteemed order, state here the most necessary and important points, which may serve as a guide until time and experience have acquainted Your Honour with the Company's schemes and its constitution, when my directions will be no longer required. If I were to give Your Honour a detailed description of the Company's position here, and the history of its acquisition of this Island and its dependencies, its mode of defence against foreign and native invasions, and the strength of the garrison in each of the strongholds both in times of peace and of war, I would not only be wasting much paper, but would also be repeating what has been already so often described in the various documents and instructions preserved here at the Secretariat. A perusal of the several Memoirs compiled by former Governors, and especially the Journal kept by His late Excellency the Extraordinary Councillor Gerrit de Heere during the year 1698,² will furnish you with a clear idea of the natural and artificial features, the strength of the

garrison in the various places, and particulars relating to the harbours and the provinces. The latter are also clearly indicated in a map hanging in my house, so that I presume that Your Honour may obtain sufficient information from the foregoing with regard to those points. I may therefore be excused from superfluous demonstration, which would only take up the brief time left to me, and perhaps prevent my touching upon other and more important points. I consider it the more necessary to come to the chief points at once, because the description given of this Government in former documents is entirely different from its condition at present. From the commencement of my rule here I made it a point to endeavour by every available means to discover the real state of affairs, and with God's blessing I have worked on steadily from year to year, and have been in a position to expose all the fraud and to lift the veil from the subtle mysteries presented before the eyes of rulers by dishonest servants; so that the affairs of this valuable Island are now in a condition in which they could never have been expected to be, a condition which would by many have been considered impossible.

It would be understood that, in thus furthering the interests of our Lords and Masters, I met with many obstacles and much opposition, especially because the evils I proposed to redress were long standing and had to be thoroughly remedied. To put in writing all these details would be too tedious a task and would only weary Your Honour. I will therefore pass the matter by in silence, and merely refer you to the letters, resolutions, journals, and other documents registered at the Secretariat, where I had the papers properly arranged.

I would wish to compile a compendious explanation of the manner in which redress was given and trickery and fraud uprooted. This will form the basis of my Memoir, presuming that Your Honour will be desirous of continuing the work thus commenced on the same footing. We have to thank God for the flourishing condition in which I may now resign this Government to Your Honour, and I would advise you to follow my example in furthering the interests of the Company wherever possible. This is to be done by vigilance and unremitting supervision, with a view to prevent the old evils creeping in again. It ought to present no difficulty now, because all the instructions and the statement of the alterations made by me are preserved here at the Company's Office of Trade Accounts, together with the other documents mentioned above. A perusal of these would at once expose any attempt made to depart from the prescribed procedure. The chief point to be borne in mind is that the Governor should not allow himself to be deceived by false arguments, or accept

personal inquiry any statements made by him. He must investigate every matter for himself, to get at the truth of it. Although this will be a trouble, he should, wherever necessary, put himself in position to the wrongdoer without any regard to expense. These are the only means by which the advantages of the territories for may be retained by the Company in these territories. The exclusive possession of territory is the lawful right of the Company, as will be demonstrated later on; and a close study of this point in the various documents will enable Your Honour to administer this important Government to the best advantage of our Masters and to the establishment of your reputation.

THE COMMANDEMENT OF JAFFNAPATNAM.

I will take all the various points in order, and commence with the Commandement of Jaffnapatnam, which was taken by assault, and has been now for fifty-seven years subject to the Company. It possesses a beautiful fort or castle known as Jaffnapatnam.³ The possibilities of defence of this stronghold might be greatly increased if its outer moat could be sufficiently deepened, but this seems impossible on account of the peculiar rocks of which the bed is composed. These rocks are found all over the Commandement, and especially around the fort. I myself and others have found this project entirely impracticable, and it will therefore be best to give up the work, about which so much mention is made in many of the Jaffnapatnam Compendiums,⁴ and to leave the embrasures as they are. This pentagonal castle was built by the Portuguese, and measures 375 roods. It is situated on the western side of the Commandement, in the heart of the bay of Tondy, which forms, together with the rivers, an outlet to the sea, where, mostly for the protection of the harbour of Caits, situated three miles north of the Castle of Jaffnapatnam, the Portuguese erected in the sea on a swampy sandbank the fortress Hammenhiel,⁵ which is still in good condition. Beyond this, along the seashore, is to be seen the fortress called *Puntoa Das Pedras*, and also on the eastern and western boundaries of the Wannu, for the protection of the passes to and from this barren territory, four other stone fortresses, called, respectively the Elephant, the Beschutter (Protector), the Pyl (Arrow), and Ponneryn. All these, except the Castle of Jaffnapatnam, are garrisoned with natives under the command of a sergeant or corporal and one or two soldiers, and could be held without much expenditure by the Company.

The wooden structure at Moeloetivoe will be referred to later. At present it must be noted that there is also a regular

fort, called Manaar, within the jurisdiction, situated on an island of the same name, and is separated from the mainland by a shallow river, which is $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile long from the south to the north-east. On the north it is protected by the fort, which, although it has no outer moat, is quite sufficient of its cannon, to dispute the passage of any small or European and other ships. This square fort is therefore of the greatest importance. It, and the whole island of Manaar, not only protect Jaffnapatnam on the south, but principally the mouths of the rivers, from the incursions of foreigners, who, from time to time, have endeavoured to make use of them. They are thus obliged to go on to the bay of Tondy, the coast of Coromandel, and further northward, where they have to wait for the south-west monsoon. Otherwise they would be obliged to pay double tolls and make presents to be allowed to pass through the strait of Pambes, or perhaps continue their voyage to the east side of this island. It is for this reason that after the death of the late Theuver^e I endeavoured to obtain permission to place a garrison at the strait of Pambes, on the west side of the island Tamanacoil, where the strait is connected with the bay of Tondy. I succeeded in this eventually in the year 1709 through the assistance of ambassadors. This permission I had obtained already by contract from his predecessor, and it was of the greatest importance to have the matter settled, partly because it serves to prove our lawful possession, partly because we may thus prevent smuggling. Particulars relating to this subject may be found in the contract and in the instructions sent to Madura. We have since learnt that a European vessel made her way through this passage, but that the Theuver disputed her right to do so, and she was made to pay the heavy double toll at the other end, and had to give considerable presents to the Theuver and his subjects. This trip, therefore, must have cost her a great deal, and she is not likely to repeat her visit. Friendship with the Theuver must therefore be cultivated, and our lawful rights enforced by contract on such occasions as these. Your Honour will also find it of the utmost importance, for the Company's trade, that the officers at Manaar are constantly reminded to closely examine all native vessels, and to see that none but those provided with our own passports and special licenses are allowed to pass. Such an examination is rendered easy and unavoidable to a faithful commander by the shallowness of these straits, because vessels sailing close along the base of our fort, if they are at all heavily laden, cannot pass the sandbanks without unloading, and it may therefore be easily seen what kind of

cargo they are carrying, and whether they contain any contraband. A row of cliffs at the entrance to the strait of Pambes makes it necessary for all vessels to unload there, and this gives the Commandant the time to protest, on behalf of the Theuver and his subaltern regents, against foreign European vessels passing, or to inform Your Honour of any special occurrence. For the present such protests may happen to be ineffectual, but it would be different when a stone fortress has been erected. Then the Theuver would find that if he does not keep to the contract the Company would refuse him the yearly passports for his two vessels to Bengal and Atchien. He would also act differently when he learns that some sloops from Jaffnapatnam are cruising along the south-east coast of his territory between Moekoen (or from Kilkare, according to the monsoon) and Otiaar, situated at the mouth of the bay of Pambes. These cruises could be easily carried on without much expenditure or interference with the inland service, and they would prevent entirely any native vessels passing unexamined at Manaar through the shallow holy river during the northern monsoons, which they do on their way to Malabar and elsewhere. This would prevent their taking arecanuts other than from the Company through the bay of Chiade and Tondy, because they would have to show their passports or letters of instruction.

For the reasons already stated, I will treat only briefly here of the various sources of revenue; of the services to be rendered to the Company; of the rents, tithes, stamp duties; the new land survey; the felling of timber, the poll tax, *adigary*⁷ and *officie*⁸ fines, passports, &c. I will only state here that the general revenue for the year ending August 31 last at the balancing of the books proved to be Fl. 157,889·7·8, and the rent for land farmed out amounted to Fl. 64,153·17. The clear profit in this Commandement during the past year amounted to Fl. 54,935·17, which is considerably higher than it had been at any time previous to my rule; for in former years the income was Fl. 104,715·5, and the expenditure Fl. 173,401·11. The increase is due to my persistent measures against untrustworthiness in the officials in regard to the verification of the Company's effects, and the abolition of certain special supplies issued monthly in that Commandement. Particulars of these matters will be found in the various instructions relating to them, and in two letters sent to Batavia bearing date July 20, 1714, and May 20, 1715, resulting from certain private decisions of April 3, 1714, and a Resolution of the Council of Colombo of May, 1715. These will show Your Honour how unavoidable and necessary it is for the Company to have a careful verification made every year, and

that great attention should be paid to the small items of expenditure in the accounts, which I made it a point to examine minutely. It was in view of this that I established the *Visite Comptoir*,⁹ the rules for which will be given later on. It must be stated here that the increased revenue of Jaffnapatnam is greatly due to the larger sale of elephants. I succeeded in extending this trade by sending every year a trustworthy person with letters to the principal merchants in Coromandel, who are in the habit of coming here every year for the purchase of elephants, informing them that a large number of good and sound animals will be for sale. This plan I found to be very successful, because formerly these merchants were often discouraged by false and unfavourable reports. Moreover, especially during the time of the late Commandeur van Heuvel¹⁰ and others, much inconvenience and unnecessary expense was caused to the merchants by the introduction of the system of dealing with them through special brokers. I have therefore abolished this practice, as may be seen from an entry in my diary of May 3, 1710. The merchants were then assisted in the shipping of the animals, &c., by one of the three interpreters of the Commandeur, whom they themselves chose, with a view of putting an end to the tricks played upon them by the Sinhalese brokers. But to our great displeasure we discovered that they were also treated very badly last year by these three interpreters, and the result has been that this year but few of the merchants came. Full particulars relating to this matter, and of the means employed to put a stop to the evil, will be found in our letter to Batavia of August 3 last. In the entry mentioned above in my diary may also be found the recent arrangements I made with regard to the new Land Thombo,¹¹ or description of rents due for fields, trees, gardens, and houses in that Commandement. I do not know how it was, but again, as formerly, we have met with so many obstacles and difficulties that the work could not be brought to perfection. I have not, however, allowed this greatly needed work to be suspended on that account. I must describe these matters and circumstances more at length, so that Your Honour may see that the work could no longer be postponed, without the Company being made to look ridiculous in the eyes of the natives, and losing the revenue it is lawfully entitled to. The Portuguese had made an attempt at compiling such a description of lands, and some fragments of these registers were left by them. It was only in the year 1677 that such a compilation was commenced at the instance of the Honourable Company. This Land Thombo was compiled according to circumstances, with a view to obtain for the Company, as Lord of the land in the

Commandement, the dues and rents it was entitled to, such as those on gardens, trees, and houses, which, until that year, had been possessed or cultivated by the inhabitants both of Jaffnapatnam and the island of Manaar. Naturally this Thombo was defective. More than forty years have passed since then, and the number of inhabitants has greatly increased, as may be seen from the yearly census and the rolls for the last ten years in Willeganjo, Wadomoratie, Patchelepale, The Islands, and the borders of the Wannu. As the number of inhabitants thus increased, many of the people were obliged to look for lands which they could cultivate, or gardens in which they could plant trees and build houses, for which they ought by rights to pay taxes and rent to the Company. Notwithstanding the strict orders of His late Excellency the Commissioner-General,¹² when visiting this Commandement, it has been impossible to compile a correct Thombo, although attempts have been made from time to time. In this way the Company has lost for nearly forty years, not only the rents that were evaded at the compilation of the old Thombo in 1677, but also those on the fields, gardens, trees, and houses cultivated, planted, or built since that time; as the inhabitants took to cultivating the forest and waste lands surrounding their fields and gardens, quietly encroaching on them without paying any rent or dues for their use. The Majoraals,¹³ or village chiefs, whose duty it is to assist the Company in this work, have on the contrary obstructed it wherever they had an opportunity, especially where the rich inhabitants were concerned. This practice of avoiding the payment of rents was facilitated by the fact that in case of discovery the Majoraals had only to refer to the old and imperfect Thombo, where often wrong boundaries were given. In order to put an end to the practice, the new Thombo for this Commandement was commenced, and again the Majoraals, together with some of the most influential natives, have tried to delay the work under various pretexts, simply with a view of remaining the longer in unlawful possession of these fraudulently acquired lands. And here I do not even speak of the Warrogo¹⁴ lands, which have also been cultivated and improved from year to year and converted into regular dwelling places. These also ought to yield considerably more in land rent than is paid for the ordinary Warrogo lands. When visiting this Commandement in 1710 I could not disregard this most important work, but was obliged to take it up again in the interest of our Lords and Masters in order to secure for them the yearly revenue. This work, so often urged, but always delayed through the craftiness of the people of Jaffnapatnam, is now being carried

on again, with my strict orders that it is to be continued until completed. This may be seen from my diary and the various orders and despatches to the Commandement. The lands I have referred to, which have been filched from the Company and usurped so long without any title or deed, are to be taken possession of by the Company and sold in its interest, together with the lands that have remained uncultivated and barren. Thus, also, in future, the yearly revenue of the Company will be increased by the rent of lands, trees, gardens, and houses which had thus far not been entered in the Thombo, although there is no prospect of recovering the large amount the Company lost through neglect of this work. So far we have been able to proceed without much difficulty. Besides the slaves employed for this purpose, a trustworthy committee must be always appointed, and the real boundaries carefully ascertained in compliance with my orders. The work must thus be carried out fairly and without intermission, and I am sure no one could complain of injustice in the matter of the lands and gardens sold on behalf of the Company. The Dessave¹⁵ of Jaffnapatnam must also revise the Head Thombo¹⁶ every third year, striking off the names of the old and infirm and of those who have died, while on the other hand, the names of youths who have left the schools must be entered, so that it may be exactly known from whom poll tax and *Oely*¹⁷ service is due. This work must be commenced as soon as possible, in order that the Trade Account Bookkeeper may be able to enter the poll tax and fines discovered to be due to the Company and the *Oely* services which have not been performed. The last revision of the Head Thombo was commenced on my orders on October 23, 1714, and was completed on the 28th February following. At the end of the last book year the total amount of the poll tax in Jaffnapatnam and Manaar was Fl. 26,794.5.

The taxes on lands, gardens, trees, vessels, nets, bulls, and houses amounted to Fl. 50,077; but this does not include the tithes of the harvest for the whole of that Commandement, of which I intend furnishing a separate statement, because formerly but little was received on this account. Through my efforts this source of revenue has increased, and from September 1 last year until August 31 this year the tithes of the harvest in Ponneryn, the lands of Corpettie, Manaar, the provinces of Mantotte, Manathan, and Moesely amounted, according to the last Compendium, to 14,548 $\frac{2}{3}$ parras of *nely*,¹⁸ besides . . . parras of the same grain which the inhabitants of the provinces of Belligammo, Wademoratie, Timmoratie, and the six inhabited islands owed the Company on account of tithes. In lieu of this, for several good reasons, and at the

request of our officials at the stations, I agreed that they should pay cash, at the rate of 3 fanams or $\frac{1}{4}$ Rd. for the parra, which realized the sum of . . . Rds. This is quite different from former years, and therefore the matter requires Your Honour's attention. With regard to the lease of the Company's lands in these territories, I have nothing particular to say, except that they are farmed out publicly every year on August 31, and are allotted to the highest bidder on good security. With the view of raising this revenue, I have included in the general fishery rent the seven villages of the district Carretta previously mentioned, which is situated along the border of the Wanni. This territory, being in their neighbourhood, the Wannias had taken possession of; but in the year 1714 I recovered it for the Company, and have since claimed the revenue from the fishery and agriculture as being right and reasonable. The Compendium previously cited shows that during the last book year this revenue amounted to Fl. 64,153.17.

The breeding of Persian and Java horses, which was commenced on the islands Delft and *De Twee Gebroeders*,¹⁹ has also been very profitable to the Company, because every year fine animals are caught here, and these are either sold, employed in the service, or given away as presents. Into the former of the islands named 8 stallions and 188 mares were introduced, into the latter 8 stallions and 74 mares. These will be found to breed yearly a large number of foals, if only the order that a yearly account be made of all the animals be carefully kept, and if it is observed that only those animals which have really died are taken off the list; which may be done only after verification by the Special Committee. The Compendium referred to shows that this enterprise has been much more successful after the new rules and remedies were introduced.

The dyeing of red cloth in Jaffnapatnam is a very profitable industry to the Company. It is carried on in workshops specially erected for the purpose, and a large quantity of cloth is dyed both for Batavia and the Fatherland, as well as for Indian stations. All cloths, except the *gingams*, which are woven at Jaffnapatnam, are received from the coast of Coromandel. The cloths are divided among the dyers (who are under the supervision of the Mudaliyar Anthony Wierrenaregna) in small quantities, no more being issued to them than they can finish at once. This is to prevent these costly goods being damaged in the small dwellings of the dyers. So also only just sufficient roots are issued for each dyeing operation, because otherwise they are stolen or used for private purposes. Last year about 78 parcels of cloth were dyed.

Great care must be taken that the pieces when dyed are put up to dry in a proper place, so that they may not get stained or torn; and when delivered by the dyers they must be carefully examined by some of the members of Council, and the perfect cloths securely packed for export. In their own interest this Committee must be very careful with regard to this matter, because many complaints have been received, both from the Fatherland and from elsewhere; and as a result of this, the officials have had to refund the amount thus lost to the Company by carelessness." The roots used for this work of red dyeing are called *say*, and are found in Jaffnapatnam, The Islands, Calpetty, Carredivo, Waredivo or Ilja da Vaca, and also in Moelly in the province of Wallegamo, and in Manaar. The best kinds are found in Carredivo, Waredivo, and Moelly; those of Manaar are equally good, and found in much larger quantities. Quantities are also received at the Company's stores from the Adigars in Merendivo and Morry. Besides this, a large quantity is also received of the so-called "seven place roots," which derive their name from the fact that they are obtained from seven different places, namely, the islands Palletivo, Irrentino or *De Twee Gebroeders*²⁰ (The Two Brothers), Ilandetoere, and Orraendie, in the Wanny at Girangy and Mallenkadoe, and in the province of Wallijammo at Poenale. Some roots have been discovered lately also in Walligamo at Ulewale Sambelady, and in Wadamoratie at Allady torren and Siendancallan; but none of these are as bright in colour as the two first-mentioned kinds. All the roots obtained from the eleven last-named places are therefore sorted at the end of each year; the best are retained for the Company, while the inferior are sold or exported to Coromandel. A great deal more might be said concerning the root found in the fifteen other places named, but I do not wish to repeat here all that may be found in the regulations framed from time to time with regard to this subject. It is only necessary to state that full particulars may be found in the various orders issued with regard to the Java roots both by His Excellency van Myndrecht and Their Excellencies the Supreme Government of India at Batavia, as also in various Memoirs and other documents preserved here at the Secretariat. I have only to add that the finer cloths, both those intended for the Fatherland and for Batavia, such as *Moeris*,²¹ *Bethilles*,²² *Salempoeris*,²³ and *Parcallen*,²⁴ must not be dyed with the "seven place roots," except in case of an absolute want of the Manaar, Carredivo, Nevendivo, and Moelly *say*. As a rule, they are dyed with Manaar and Carredivo roots mixed with *ruinas* roots, about 13/15 Manaar or Carredivo and 2/15

ruinas roots. The roots from the "seven places" are mostly used for the dyeing red of stuff for flags, *gingams*, and other cheap materials for India which have to be of a bright red colour, but need not be so brilliant or durable as the cloths dyed with roots from Carredivo or Manaar and with *ruinas* roots. It must, therefore, be observed that only the inferior roots are used for the cheap cloths. The men must be kept to their work as much as possible, and private work among them must be discouraged, so that the Company may be able to meet the demand, especially in the Fatherland, where the cloths must be sent without failure during the months of July, August, or September of the same year in which application is made.

So many Ordinances have been passed relating to the propagation of religion, the administration of justice, the executive, and the finances in this Commandement, that it will not be necessary for me to repeat these matters here, as they may be found in the various documents in question. The same may be said with regard to the Christian aims and praiseworthy zeal of our Lords and Masters in the promotion and propagation of the Reformed Religion among the hardened and obstinate heathen people of this land. I ought, however, to mention here, in regard to this important matter, that I had the singular pleasure and great satisfaction of seeing the fruit of the great care bestowed and the expenditure incurred by the Company in the project of spreading God's Holy Name. With this view Their Excellencies had founded, through the instrumentality of the Hon. van Drakenstein, their Commissioner-General (of blessed memory),²⁵ in the year 1690, just outside Jaffnapatnam, a splendid building, at a cost of Rds. 5,274, as a Seminary or Training School, where the true Reformed Religion is to be taught. An Ordinance relating to this institution was registered at the Secretariat under date December 2 of the same year, which has been since amplified by letters from here bearing date November 21, 1695, April 4 and June 13, 1696, and several other orders issued during my administration. For a long time the Seminary has been without a Rector, owing to the want of a suitable person to fill the post. A resident Dutch teacher has been entrusted with its supervision, and he also instructs the youths in the Dutch language and in the principles of our true religion. At present the number of pupils is Twice a year an examination is held in the presence of the Commandeur, the Council, and the Clergy. Those students who are sufficiently advanced are transferred to the Seminary at Colombo under the Rev. Petrus Sijnjeu, of whose care and methods of teaching I will speak later on when I come to treat of the Colombo

Seminary. I merely need state here for the present that, according to the diary kept during my residence in Jaffnapatnam shortly after I assumed the Government, one of the three native Proponents delivered a sermon in the Dutch language from Rom. I. 10, in the presence of the Jaffna congregation and myself, which was very lucid and edifying. It greatly pleased all who heard it to find one who had previously been a heathen now so enlightened as to be able to deliver a learned discourse in our own language and speak of God's wonderful works. I hope and pray that this holy work thus begun may, by the power of the Almighty God, be brought to perfection, and that He will daily bless the means employed towards this end.

With regard to the pearl banks of Aripo in the bay of Condatie, 5 miles south of the fort of Manaar, and of those found along the coast of Madura, but mostly north of the Tutucoryn Forth, various useful and comprehensive reports are to be found, which may be read at the Secretariat in Colombo. They all deal with the fact that every year, at fixed times, viz., in Madura about November, and in Aripo in February, the banks must be inspected by trustworthy Commissioners, aided by Pattangatyns,²⁶ at whose disposal are to be placed *thonys*²⁷ from Madura, Jaffna, and Manaar. These Commissioners are to see whether properly matured oysters are to be found at the places named, so that according to their report a fishery may either be ordered in proper time or be postponed as the case should demand. These yearly inspections are held in the hope that these profitable banks may furnish the Company with the rich revenue to which it is indisputably entitled as Lord of the Shores, and also to enable it to purchase this jewel of the sea at a reasonable price so as to meet the demand made therefor. To my regret I have not been so fortunate as to have had more than one fishery during my rule, although the yearly inspections have not been neglected. One fishery was held in the year 1708 before the western coast of Madura. On this occasion there was realized on behalf of the Company, besides all free stones,²⁸ the considerable sum of 353,920 fanums, at 6½ light stivers, equal to Fl. 119,448. This amount was derived from the "stone money," or, to speak more definitely, the regulated tax on every stone used by the divers for the purpose of going down to the bed of the sea. The tax on the stones is regulated according to the character and position of the divers; a Christian pays the Company a tax of 70 fanums per stone, a Moor 120 fanums, and a heathen 94½ fanums. On 528 vessels at the fishery in question there were used 4,321½ stones, of which 2,380 were used by Christians, 1,551½ by Moors, and 390

by heathen. The Naik of Madura was allowed 96½ stones of a different kind free, and the Theuver 60 Moorish stones, in terms of the contracts and other documents regarding this matter. It is also an old custom for the Court of the Cailpatnam Moors to be allowed 10 stones, the Pattangatyn native officers of Taele or Moekoen along the shore 185, the Pattangatyns of Manaar 30, and those of Jaffnapatnam 13 stones, as allowed to Christians, without payment. It must also be observed that when the result of the inspection proved satisfactory and the banks were found to be covered with a goodly number of oysters, timely notice of a fishery was to be given everywhere, and the Commissioners required to employ for this purpose capable and careful officers, competent to discharge their duties properly, and to promptly settle the disputes which usually arose to a great extent between the Manigaar or messenger of the Naik and those of the Theuver and his subjects, and also between the Moors in their various quarters. During the fishery these people set up a series of frivolous pretensions and fanciful prerogatives, which must be settled at once in a fair manner by the Commissioners, so that the fishery may not be disturbed; as that would be to the detriment of thousands of people. The said Commissioners must also guard against pearls being sold by any other people than the inhabitants of Wierandepatnam, Cailpatnam, Ponneckail, Tutucoryn, and Cailvelho. At the last-named place or market for pearls 5 per cent. duty is to be paid to the Armano, as granted to that Prince with the knowledge and authority of the Company. He is also allowed the full proceeds of the fishery for a whole day. During my time this was given to him from all vessels without a murmur. On the other hand, I gave strict orders that precautions should be taken to prevent the people of the Armano or of the Theuver usurping any undue authority. All these matters must be borne in mind in the interest of the Company, and order must be maintained in a prudent and judicious manner. Precaution should also be taken that the overseers of the pearl markets do not levy any unlawful dues, and that no false coin is brought into circulation, and also that no stones are concealed to the prejudice of the Company. In order to prevent the latter, the names of all the divers with their number of stones, each under his Pattangatyn, must be carefully entered by the Commissioners, and each individual must receive a certificate signed on behalf of the Company, while a number of sloops must constantly cruise about the scene of the pearl fishery, to examine every vessel and to see that it has no unauthorized divers or stones on board. The *Amande* is usually fixed at Rds. 20 or 25 per stone, and no one is allowed to open the oysters brought

ashore until after the close of the fishery, the oysters being stored up for the time. After the fishery public proclamation is made on behalf of the Company that every one is at liberty to open his oysters and to come and pay the duty on the stones and to obtain a license for their removal. A great deal more might be written on this subject; as, for instance, with regard to the solemnities to be observed in and the time of hoisting the Company's flag; with regard to the usual duration of a pearl fishery; the precautions to be taken and the guides employed at the pearl banks; of the reason why at certain times no purchase of pearls was made for the Company, &c.; but I fear that it would take up too much space, and I must therefore refer to the notes sent by me to the Netherlands and to Batavia, together with other documents, where the general details in reference to this useful work have been related. In the meantime the most essential instructions have been given by me.

Of no less advantage to the Company is the regular yearly income derived from the sale of elephants. This is also a matter that differs in various places, and, as I am writing at present of the Commandement of Jaffnapatnam, I will simply state here in what manner the elephants are obtained. The hunters of Wringaly, Mantotte, Nanathan, and Moeselypattoe deliver yearly to the *Opperhoofd*²⁹ and the Council a considerable number of these animals as tribute, as presents, and on payment for those in excess of the tribute. The officials named have instructions not to accept defective animals, or any female elephants, unless these are of large and splendid stature, because otherwise the females are left on the hands of the Company and become a source of expense to the inhabitants of Jaffnapatnam. I have, therefore, in giving orders for the capture of elephants on the borders of the Wanni, forbidden the use of pits and nooses, because they injure the animals. The capture in kraals is much more troublesome, but it prevents to a considerable extent the injury otherwise caused to the animals and which depreciates their value. For this purpose a new kraal has been formed in the forest of Calehoene and another in the high forest outside Ponneryn, somewhere about the place where the village of Walancolan used to be. The rule I have laid down must be observed in future, and the inhabitants gradually accustomed to this method.

The large district of the Wanni, which means "desert," and forms the largest part of this Commandement, has been from olden times divided into six provinces, which were granted as fiefs to some of the Majoraals or principal chiefs, known as Wannias, with the usufruct of these provinces and

the subaltern rule thereof, on certain conditions made by the Company. This was that they should deliver yearly to the Company a tribute of 42½ elephants, all *alias*, without tusks, and of such height as specified in the various Memoirs, especially in that left by Mr. Laurens Pyl³⁰ for his successor Commandeur Rutgert de Heyde.³¹ Each Wannia is to contribute his share according to the extent of his province. I have also introduced some modifications in these conditions, and have ordered that no elephants should be accepted from the said Wannias but *alias*, or female elephants without the least defects and of a beautiful build. I have also continually urged these people to pay up their arrears, with the threat that if they failed to do so they would be deprived of their posts and possessions, which were granted to their ancestors simply in order that the Company may obtain the fixed tribute of elephants. This has at last had effect, for they delivered more elephants yearly than before, and did not make any appeal for remission of their arrears; whereas formerly a great many of these petitions were received. Strict orders were also given long ago that no cash was to be paid to these forest chiefs unless they had paid up all their arrears (if such an unexpected thing should ever happen). In that case they must be paid at the higher rate fixed by Their Excellencies the Supreme Government of India at Batavia in their letter of December, 1695, to this Commandement.

The six provinces referred to above are called Panengamo, Carrecattemoele, Meelpattoe, Moeleawalloe, Tinnemarewaddy, and Carnawelpattoe. At present these are supervised, under the higher authority of the Honourable Company, by four Wannias and three Mudaliyars, Don Anthony Collesegras, Don Philip Candaspas Maylatte, Don Gaspar Chiandeynaar Wary, and Candappa, each holding a separate province. Don Anthony and Don Philip, besides this, have each half of the province Pannengamo, the one holding also Melpattoe, Moeliawalle, and Celembenaar, and the other half of the Wanni in common. The tribute received for all this is altogether 40½ animals delivered yearly. Besides this, Don Anthony delivers two elephants yearly for the villages Coparpo and Moeliaan, which have been assigned to him by contract; which tribute he pays in lieu of the poll tax and land rent which the Company would otherwise receive from these two villages. Thus, the full number of elephants delivered as tribute is 42½. Towards the tribute for this year 32 animals have been delivered; so that at the end of last August they owed the Company in all, with the arrears of former years, 193¾ elephants. They must be continually urged to pay up these outstanding dues. I must also state here that I discovered last year, when

punishing the rebellious Wannias Diogo Poewinellamapane and Diogo Gaspar Niteheachendrayen Mudaliyar, that they are by no means as formidable as they have been represented to be in former documents, where it was made believe that should the Company attack these men they would find a safe refuge and certain protection in the territory of the Kandyan king. This is by no means the case, as His Majesty the Kandyan king not only refused to grant an audience to the embassy sent to him by the rebels with presents, the offer of vassalage, and the eternal submission of these provinces and their subjects, but had them put in chains, and sent to us with their credentials to be punished according to their deserts for their audacious conduct. At first His Majesty was so much roused by the occurrence that he would have had the men beheaded then and there, but his courtiers intervened and pacified him. All these circumstances have been stated at length in our letter to Batavia bearing date May 20, 1715, and other documents. This, together with the fear of the Company's arms, has had the effect of speedily driving away the rebels and of dispersing their whole faction; while the Company has been reimbursed the expenditure incurred by this expedition out of the amount paid by valuation by the newly appointed Wannias for the properties and possessions of the rebels confiscated by the Company. On that occasion I had the singular pleasure of discovering, through the courageousness of Don Anthony, who was here in Colombo at the time, the evil practices carried on in the Wanni and the hiding places of the smugglers along the east coast of this Island between Punto Pedro and Trinconomale, or rather between Moeliawalle and the Pas Pyl. This smuggling, carried on thus far surreptitiously, is very prejudicial to the Company's trade. I will therefore deal with the subject at length. The Wanni is situated to the south (of Jaffnapatnam), right across the Island, and adjoins the Kandyan territory. It is therefore well situated for the clandestine exportation of elephant tusks, &c., as they could be easily fetched by beasts of burden, while other articles also may be exported without the Company being able to prevent it, much to the prejudice of its trade. It is very necessary that the Company should hold all seaports in this Island and be thus master of the trade. Therefore, the passes and the barren territory on the side of Jaffnapatnam must be carefully guarded. I will refer to Trinconomale and Calpatty later on. The Wanni must be so closely surrounded as to make it impossible for any articles to be imported or exported without the knowledge of the Company's servants. It seems, however, that the cunning and selfishness of these lords of the

forests have been more than a match for the vigilance of the officials at Jaffnapatnam, who, instead of having the movements and intrigues of the Majoraals watched by spies, have allowed them to continue their smuggling. These succeeded in eluding the Company by making use of three small seaports on a part of the Ceylon coast which is little resorted to, called Alembiel, Chialwatte, and Moletivo, situated between Pas Pyl and Moeliawalle. And from there they secretly and cunningly despatched by *thonys*²⁷ to the Coromandel Coast arecanuts, elephant tusks, &c., bought in the Wanni, these vessels returning with cotton goods, and thus again escaping the duties thereon. This would not have been discovered but for the reports of the said Don Anthony of December 31, 1714, and January 2, 1715, which will be found registered at the Secretariat. I have thus been enabled to intercept this smuggling and to prevent it in future. With this end in view the Commandeur and the Council of Jaffnapatnam have been ordered to send one of the sloops to cruise along these shores during the change of the monsoon, with instructions to allow no vessel to pass without examination, and to prevent them entering any of these harbours of the Wanni. As an encouragement the crew have been promised one-third of the confiscated goods. In order also to be in a better position to control and watch these Wannias, I had built near the bay of Woebletivo, or in the village of Moeletivo, a small wooden structure of pallisades and earth, to enable us to watch from close by what these people did on the shore. This is a matter of great importance in regard to the Company's trade, because the existence of three such smuggling coves gave these folk facilities for importing and exporting whatever would bring most profit, and for this reason the cruising operations must be continued. In the structure at Moeletivo are now stationed 24 European soldiers under command of an ensign and two sergeants, besides 20 lascoreens under their chief, which is quite a sufficient force.

These are the principal matters of note relating to the Company in the Commandement of Jaffnapatnam. I will now proceed to treat of the other stations. But before doing so I must strongly commend to you the newly appointed Wannia, Don Anthony Colesegra, as a faithful and diligent subject of the Company, although last year he had the misfortune of incurring the displeasure of the Commandeur of Jaffnapatnam. This was chiefly on account of the disclosure he made to me with regard to the rebellious Wannias, a matter referred to already. These disclosures (in writing) were handed to me in the presence of Captain Beeckman and the Secretary de Haan, and he showed therein not only how harshly he had

been treated by the Commandeur during his detention in Jaffnapatnam, but he also pointed out the comparatively easy means by which the rebels might be captured in their smuggling coves. To all appearance a great deal more advantage might have been derived from the information obtained by those who were entrusted with the execution of this work, if this man had not been constantly mistrusted and suspected, and if the expedition had been carried out in a more suitable manner.³² All this may be seen in the various documents preserved at the Secretariat, and especially from the correspondence, both public and private, between ourselves and the officials referred to.

THE COMMANDEMENT OF GALLE.

This Commandement, which is situated between the rivers Bentotte on the west and the Walewe on the east, is secured against hostile attacks by three stone strongholds. The principal and most formidable of these is the town of Galle, 171 roods in circumference, which, besides other advantages, possesses a splendid harbour where the Company's vessels could be sheltered and protected, and especially the ships of the return fleet, which are quite safe and may be loaded there. The only danger is from the strong south-east wind blowing from the open sea, which sometimes makes this bay very stormy and dangerous; the more so, because the crew of the return fleet are by no means prepared for such winds at that time of the year, and are rather reckless in having the vessels anchored very near each other. I considered it necessary to make some provision in relation to this matter, and ordered among other things that no foreign vessels were to remain in harbour during the winter when our return fleet was in the bay, because they are usually provided with inferior cables and only cause damage to the Company's ships during rough weather. Further precautions have been prescribed with regard to the anchoring of the ships and providing them with all necessary requirements. The harbour near the Oenewatte hill is provided by nature with a sand bay, which has a tank or water reservoir, where clear and fresh drinking water is continually collected from the neighbouring hills, and this water may be obtained for the use of the vessels without much loss of time or trouble.³³ Besides fortifications, the said Commandement consists of a large part of the Wallalewitty, Galle, Bellegam, Moruwa, and Dolas das Corles. It is also protected, as previously stated, by the fortress of Matura, the usual residence of the Dessaves. This fortress also has been built in a very advantageous position, on a narrow projecting strip of land, about 60 roods wide,

enclosed on the east by the sea, and on the west by the river Nielwallagange. Another stronghold is Catoene, about 7 miles landward of Matura, situated on the boundaries of the Company's territory. These strongholds require as garrison the strength of men stated in the diary of His Excellency the late Governor, and in order to avoid repetition I would refer to that document, to which also I would refer with regard to the garrison required for Galle and the three old *paggers*,³⁴ Accuras, Hakman, and Marcade, the latter three being only garrisoned by lascoreens as a token of our right of possession.

This Commandement of Galle, which before my time had always been a heavy burden to the Company, I succeeded, by means of a great deal of retrenchment and carefully planned economy in administration, to place on such a secure and profitable footing that it yielded, like other Commandements under this Government, a considerable profit during the last year. This year, however, the revenue has fallen off again to the amount of Fl. 9,121.12, a deficit which is chiefly due to the smaller sale of Galle elephants. This year the number sold in Jaffna amounted only to 37, against 113 last year. A statement of the revenue of this least remunerative of all stations under my rule may be found in the General Account sent yearly to the Netherlands and to Batavia. I will add here only in general terms that the improved condition is chiefly due to the abolition of unnecessary items of expenditure and the careful supervision of the subordinate employés, by guarding against dishonest acts on their part. Because, formerly, they did not hesitate to carry on a private trade in cotton goods and other articles, thus attacking the Company in the most important departments of its trade. They even interfered in the sale of arecanuts; so that, although a considerable quantity of this commodity was deposited yearly in the Company's stores, both by village and *moetets*³⁵ taxes and by purchase, yet very little of it was sold. On the other hand, these functionaries filled their own pockets by buying up and privately selling a large quantity of these nuts, which quite supplied the demand of the vessels arriving there. Thus it was that the Company sold but very little, and was obliged to consign yearly a large quantity of spoilt and stale nuts to the fire. I have not been able to find a better means of preventing this evil than by appointing two Commissioners, and by instructing the Collector of the Arecanuts never to purchase any nuts on behalf of the Company in that district except in the presence of these two Commissioners. The two Commissioners as well as the Collector were to bind themselves by an oath, the purport of which will be found in one of the documents at the Secretariat. This practice must

always be followed in the appointment of new Collectors or when changing the Committee; because it has been found that these officers are restrained from the evil practices referred to by fear of the consequences of violating their oath. It is also very necessary to revise from time to time the strict orders made by me to prevent the smuggling of arecanuts in the bay of Galle, in Belligam, and in Ganduure, as also those prohibiting the Sinhalese from taking their nuts to the unprofitable market at Cattergamme. All these orders will be found contained in the letters sent from here to Galle, and in other documents preserved there. The foregoing remarks also apply to the trade in cotton goods, in which the Company obtained but a small profit, while its servants, without right or reason, openly carried on a large trade, in the face of all *Placaats*, and without fear of the penalties involved. Indeed, this evil had taken such root that, with the connivance of the person in authority, a society was established under the name of the "Small Company," which considered this forbidden trade to be the privilege of the chief officers in this Commandement. Against this pernicious state of things I had to apply strong remedies, and I made the Master Attendant of the Shipping, the Warehouse-keepers, and the Receiver of Shore Dues bind themselves by a strict oath bearing upon their duties in the loading and unloading of ships, and the storage in the Company's warehouses of these said forbidden cotton goods. All this may also be found at the Secretariat. At the same time it will be seen that, as a greater encouragement, I promised the subordinates of the Fiscal and the Collector as a reward one-third of all cotton goods and arecanuts they succeeded in confiscating. Various other useful precautionary measures and orders were issued, which any one interested in the matter may always find among the documents at the Secretariat. That these measures have been successful in preventing this great evil and in compelling the Company's officers and servants to act with greater honesty is proved by the Company's trade accounts. They would show what considerable profits the Company has derived from arecanuts and cotton goods during my rule, especially in the last account, which shows as receipts for this year the sum of Fl. 9,420.14 and for arecanuts Fl. 53,225.4. The same books and the Compendium also prove that since the promulgation of these orders a great deal more, yea, even ten times, arecanuts have been sold to the Company than during the time of private purchase, when, indeed, hardly any nuts were offered to the Company. According to the usual custom I ought now to state in detail in what manner these nuts are collected, and how much the inhabitants are obliged to deliver

yearly to the Lord of the land both as village and as meetets taxes, and also who are under this obligation. But as all these particulars have been dealt with in the Memoirs of Their Honours Pyl and Van Rhee,³⁶ it is hardly necessary for me to repeat them here, especially as these are fixed revenues, which vary but little. During my rule, however, I raised the taxes on arecanuts in a few villages in proportion to the amount. In all other cases this income depends on God's blessing and on a more or less plentiful harvest. Care must be taken that every year the inhabitants plant young trees in place of those of the old ones which may have died. This is a matter that falls within the province of the Commandeur and the Council of Galle as regards both the Galle and the Matura districts. I have also taken the produce of the *nely*¹⁸ and other harvests in these two districts from the hands of the rich natives and put it into those of the lawful Lord of the land, i.e., the Company, with the result that a considerable quantity is now collected for the Company's stores, while formerly hardly any was delivered there. For instance, it is shown in the books that during the year 1714-1715 in the said district, and especially in Matura, 50,943½ parras of *nely* were received; while the books for 1715-1716 show that so much as 78,216½ parras of *nely* were received, which is not only sufficient for the needs of that Commandement, but allows of a quantity being sold to the inhabitants. Ninety or a hundred lasts of rice must be yearly sent from Colombo to Galle in the autumn for the use of the cinnamon peelers and for that of the return fleet and other vessels that call there. The ships must be supplied not with *nely*, but with a good quantity of rice, because the *nely* on account of its husk and peel takes up twice as much room, and is nearly twice as heavy, one parra of rice being equal to two parras of *nely*. The cinnamon peelers also are hardly ever supplied with *nely*, but nearly always with rice, because they have to go far into the king's territory, and would be too much encumbered if they were given *nely* instead of rice. In cases of urgency, however, I have now and again by gentle persuasion induced them to accept *nely*, but never against their determined wish. It would be very desirable, now that the Company obtains its *nely* from the Ceylon harvest, to find the means of clearing it from the husk and converting it into rice. In that case it would be no longer necessary to send rice from here. The extent of the increase of revenue from the harvest may be fully ascertained from the successive instructions sent to the Galle Commandement, and especially from our letter of December 14, 1713, to Their Honours our Superiors in the

Fatherland. It is there stated how shamefully the natives used to deal with the Company's revenue, appropriating the greater part of it to themselves, while even the part left to the Company was not delivered, but left to be enjoyed by the village clerks and others. They also usually usurped and cultivated the best and most fertile fields without paying revenue to the lawful Lord of the land, leaving only the worst for the Company, from which also no profit was obtained, as they rendered false accounts of receipt and expenditure, referring to the authority of the Dessave, so that in the end there was hardly any grain available for the Company. I have opposed these malpractices as far as possible from the time of my arrival by the dismissal of the dishonest Master of the Harvest Jan de Leeuw, who for a considerable time held this post in the Girriways, and most skilfully acted his part with the knowledge of his superiors, as mentioned by me in my diary for the year 1708 when I visited this Commandement, and when on personally investigating the matter I found out his tricks. This obliged me to look out for another person to fill his office, an honest and diligent native, and I appointed as Gagienaike, or Master of the Harvest, Don Simon de Wiedjewardene, Mudaliyar, to whom reference will be made later on, and whose good qualities I have dwelt on in my diary. By his honesty and zeal the real income from, and the value of, the Girriway territory are now known. It was found that, contrary to the opinion of the former Governors, the Girriways and Baygams³⁷ alone could yield sufficient grain for the whole of the Galle Commandement, including the garrison and the native servants. It will be seen from the above account that the quantity stated there was stowed away in the Company's warehouse after all necessary clearances had been made. This increase is also partly due to the orders issued by me on July 4, 1712, to the Dessaves and the Trade Accountants at Colombo, Galle, and Matura, and to the Chief of the Audit Office at Colombo, with a view to further prevent fraud and neglect. They were to the effect that in future the Dessaves must send in every month an account of all the *nely* left on the land which had yet to be fetched, with a statement of the villages and korles, and the names of the individuals in whose care it was left; so that the Trade Accountants may be able to draw up an exact account of all the rice received and issued. In order to secure a better observance of this rule, the Audit Office has been required to compare the Trade Accounts with the accounts of the Dessave, and also with the lists kept by the Commissioners, who are yearly sent out to the fields to make an estimate of the harvest and the Company's revenue. To simplify this work I had these lists translated

into Dutch by the sworn interpreters employed at the Secretariat in Colombo. These orders are preserved at the Secretariat, and may be found also in the above-cited letter of the year 1713. The orders and admonitions must be continually repeated, and their observance strictly enforced, as being the only means of securing for the Company its lawful revenue. This revenue has greatly increased by the withdrawal of several *accomodessans*,³⁸ which had been thoughtlessly and without sufficient discrimination granted from time to time to different Mudaliyars and other native chiefs, so that whole provinces and the finest fields were occupied by them without the payment of any tribute to the Lord of the land.

In this matter also I introduced a reform, as will appear from the correspondence of the present year with the Commandement of Galle. Each person is now allowed only as much *accomodessan* as he is entitled to in right of his office. The increase of the present revenue was further due to the sale of uncultivated lands, which has already realized a considerable sum, and will yield more, as a large number of lands are yet to be sold. Many objections were raised to the sale of these lands, the argument being that it would cause great disturbance; but I have shown already, in regard to the same matter in Jaffnapatnam, that the difficulties were by no means as great as had been apprehended. It pleased Their Honours in the Fatherland by their letter of the year 1714 to order the sale of such lands as were the lawful property of the Company; and on the receipt of this esteemed order I had notices published throughout this Government, summoning before the Court of Justice all persons who considered themselves entitled to any of the above-mentioned lands, requiring them to appear with their deeds within a period of six months. But thus far very few persons have been able to prove their right, and it is not likely that many of the former owners of the lands already sold will be able to prove their claim. I have taken every precaution to prevent any one being wronged or defrauded. It is to be hoped that these orders have been carried out by the persons entrusted with the work. In a lengthy reply from the Commandeur and Council of Jaffnapatnam dated August 13, 1715, to our inquiry of July 25, with regard to this matter, this is stated to have been done. In order to avoid prolixity I would refer here to these two letters, and also to two declarations dated July 25 and 30 on the same subject, to be found at the Secretariat, where an account is given of the proceedings and sale by the Dessave of Matura, Jeremias van Vliet.

The capture of elephants in the Dessavony of Matura is a very important matter, and yields a considerable profit to.

the Company, without any other risk than mortality among the animals. They are captured at a small expenditure in the kraals at Kitjegosere, Biddigamme, and Goddegamme, and fed from the trees belonging to the inhabitants. The Company only pays the keepers a small salary, which is fixed by regulations. There are also old regulations treating of the castes that are obliged to perform this work, of the manner in which these animals are to be caught and tamed, and of the description of trees which are to provide food for these gormandizers. All these rules have been set forth in detail in former Memoirs, but in none of them will be found such a good account of so many beautiful animals having been captured in this part of the country as during my rule. This is due to the change made by me in the post of Overseer of the Harvest, because the Master of the Hunt and the Overseer of the Harvest were on bad terms and harassed each other as much as possible. If the former arranged for a hunt, the latter pretended that he had urgent need of the people required to start the elephants, for the purpose of ploughing, sowing, or mowing, and *vice versa*, much to the detriment of this important work. These two offices having now been entrusted to one person, *i.e.*, Don Simon, there is no quarrelling, and consequently the work is done much better and in proper season. In this way also the services of the inhabitants are properly distributed, so that one work need not wait for the other. As a result of this new arrangement, a sufficient number of elephants was captured for the Company's trade in this district alone, and with small expenditure. This was also partly due to the extraordinary vigilance and untiring zeal of the Gagiennaike referred to, who even out of his private means made presents to the inhabitants and chiefs of the Colona and other Korles in the Kandyan king's dominions, in order to induce them to start the animals to the Waluwe river, and across that river into the Company's territory. It would otherwise be impossible to obtain so many of these animals in our land, because they are usually kept back by the king's subjects, and perhaps even killed for the sake of the tusks. With a view to still further promote this work, I sent orders to Matura that the Dessaves, who used to be present with great pomp and many ceremonies, much to the delay of business, were not to attend in future, but that they were simply to procure for the Gagiennaike all that he required. This, as was to be expected, aroused an ill-feeling on their part towards the latter, so much so that they oppose him on every pretext. It will therefore be very necessary to give this energetic man all the support you can, and permit him to lay his complaints directly before you.

In this case he will not fail to continue his work with the same zeal.

The revenue of these districts, known under the name of *Deccum*,³⁹ *Enge*,⁴⁰ and *Wattebadde*,⁴¹ have all been described and specified in the documents already referred to. They have brought in considerably more during the last few years than formerly, on account of some villages having been more heavily taxed than others, as was reasonable. The Dessave of Matura and the Captain of the Corle must see that these taxes are paid; and it will also be necessary, at the end of August, to publicly lease out to the highest bidder the remaining lands of the Company in that district, so that the revenue of the district may be received without interruption. The various sources of revenue are stated in the yearly Compendium, and that for the last year shows that these have amounted during the last book year to Fl. 46,603·5·8, and the lease of lands to Fl. 8,457.

The quantity of Ceylon cardamoms exported to the Fatherland varies year by year. It has to be collected mostly in these districts by purchase from Kandy. I must mention here *en passant* that instructions have been received from the Fatherland with regard to its collection and shipping, and orders were given that funds for its purchase should be given out early, to prevent the returning vessels being kept waiting, or the whole of the quantity required not being supplied. Particulars as to the manner of loading the ships will be found in our correspondence. It will be seen there that during my rule as many as 7 parras of this seed were repeatedly despatched each time from the bay of Galle. I will now make an end of my observations relating to this Commandement, but before doing so must refer to some important orders which I had to issue during the latter part of 1713, 1714, and 1715, with regard to the unloading of cargo, a work which was being done very carelessly. The persons in authority were not present, and when goods were afterwards found missing to the prejudice of the Company, they would allege that they could not be held responsible. Moreover, the demands for fittings and provisions were so outrageously large that one hardly knew where the supply of such large quantities was to come from. I therefore framed a set of new rules to regulate these matters, and appointed two permanent Commissioners, with strict orders that they should not allow even the bottom layers of the cargo, or even pepper, to be brought into the ships without the captain of the vessel and the Bookkeeper being present, either of whom was to accompany the cargo to the ship. Formerly it was not considered worth the trouble to send any Commissioner or

responsible person along with the goods when pepper was being loaded, the presence of the two Commissioners at the loading of the upper cargo being thought sufficient. The result was that the Company in the Netherlands often received such goods considerably under weight, and especially so in the case of pepper. When complaints were sent in, no satisfactory reason or explanation could be found. The authorities of the vessels are now held responsible for the cargo that is loaded under their own supervision. The accounts of the fittings and provisions also must be carefully examined at every station in this Commandement, to make sure that nothing is issued against orders; and it must also be noted how much of the goods each ship has left behind, in order to prevent unnecessary issues. Special attention must be paid to applications for heavy cables; for these have been asked for and supplied formerly at an extraordinary rate; while, on the other hand, ships bound for the Cape now have to content themselves with only five good cables, two obtained from the Fatherland and three made and supplied here. The latter are very good, and tougher than those made in the Netherlands, and they show a profit to the Company, as their cost is only two-thirds of the price of the former. They are made in Colombo and Galle by our own people from *cayer*,⁴² or coconut husk, which is obtained in the villages of the Chialas, and thus yields some profit to the inhabitants. I usually had the ships under this Government supplied with these cables, because of the saving in expenditure, and I thus avoided the use of the more expensive article from Holland, in the interest of our Lords and Masters. The expenditure for the equipage of ships and also the cost of the hoys and other small vessels was thus reduced.

TRINCONOMALE.

Trinconomale, situated on the eastern side of this Island, about 22 miles south of Punto Pedra, on a projecting point of rock, is a fortress with many strong accessories, such as batteries, redoubts, bastions, and moats, some of which, however, fell into decay a few years ago or had not been completed. I will therefore speak here only of the fortress itself. It is situated at the foot of the so-called Pagoda hill, bounded on the north and south by two outer bays, the northern of which is a safe anchorage for large and small vessels. The southern bay, on the other hand, is only useful for small vessels during the northern monsoon, because of its many reefs and rocks. The fort itself, measuring on the inside about 266 roods, is of great importance to the Company, and must therefore be kept in constant repair. It is important in regard to our relations with the King of Kandy, if for no

other reason, for its use on the closing of the harbours, and for maintaining our mastership of the trade in arecanut and cotton goods which is carried on in that part of the country. It is also important on account of its close proximity to the coasts of Coromandel and Bengal, and to safeguard us from the intrusion of foreign Europeans, who, when opportunity offered, would be glad to possess themselves of such a convenient station, which would enable them to obtain considerable privileges which the Honourable Company now derives from this Island, especially as it would form a very good port of call. Although at present this fortress is in a condition sufficiently strong to withstand any hostile attack from outside, I had, as a greater safeguard, and as the expense was inconsiderable, ordered in 1714 that in Oostenburg and across the road 8 cannons, 4 on each side, should be placed and given in charge of a sergeant and six soldiers. This Oostenburg is a small stone fortress, very favourably situated on the top of a hill east of the entrance to the inner bay, and thus serves to protect the bay. The entrance to this fortress on the land side is a narrow, difficult, and steep path, provided with embrasures. On the sea side it is entirely inaccessible on account of the high and steep walls. Just opposite Oostenburg, on the west, so as to cover the inner bay from the other side, is a *waterpas*,⁴³ which may also be strengthened; but I postponed this work because the bay is at present sufficiently protected. The *waterpas*, situated 200 roods from the coast, is guarded by a sergeant, 2 corporals, and 12 soldiers, with 3 pieces of ordnance of 18-lb. balls and 3 of 12-lb. balls, with such precautions and arrangements as were necessary. This matter is referred to in our letters of July 25, 1713, and July 13, 1714. I leave it to Your Honour to obtain authority from Their Excellencies the Government of India, should it become necessary, to build another *waterpas* of freestone below, across the road, or at the other end of Oostenburg, as a greater protection for the inner bay. This may be easily done and at small expenditure.

BATTICALOA.

Batticaloa, 16 miles from the fort of Trincomale, situated on the island of Paleandivo, is also a strong and well-built fort, at which the Company's jurisdiction terminates. The island referred to is separated from the east coast of Ceylon by the river Batticaloa, which gives its name to the fort mentioned above, and bounds it on the south and west. The fort is 120 roods in circumference, and is at present garrisoned, with a view to prevent as far as possible the smuggling going on there to the prejudice of the trade of the

Company, and also for the collection of grain and other articles for the Company. On account of its restricted jurisdiction here as well as in Trincomale and more inland, the Company has no power over the Sinhalese, who are subject to the King of Kandy; and they must therefore be treated with special kindness and consideration. So also must the Veddas, an almost savage tribe, who live in that territory, and who for various certain reasons are useful to the Company, especially their chiefs, who sometimes come to visit our people, and are often able to obtain for us, in return for a small present, the wax required for the use of this Government, which would otherwise have to be obtained with much more trouble and at greater expense from Bengal or Malabar. This wax was lately obtained at the very small cost of one schelling⁴⁴ a pound. Nineteen miles north-west of Batticaloa, or south-east of Trincomale, 2 miles from the last mentioned place, is the district Coetjaar, and in its neighbourhood, round the curve of the coast line, the province of Tamblagam. From these provinces is obtained yearly a considerable quantity of *nely* at very reasonable prices, which comes in handy for the garrison, &c. But, on the other hand, these localities are very convenient ones for smugglers, who pretend to fetch rice, but really smuggle cotton goods into, and arecanuts out of, the Kandyan territory. A strict watch must be kept, and it must be the duty of the cruising *chialoups* of Trincomale to examine all native vessels passing along that coast, so that this profitable trade may not be injured. At the commencement of my rule the trade was entirely monopolized by the Company by the closing of all the Ceylon harbours, a fact which may be learnt from the orders and regulations of the latter part of the year 1707, which are preserved at the Secretariat in Colombo. This must be borne in mind with regard to these islands, because it is a matter specially desired by Their Excellencies our Superiors in Holland and in Batavia, on whose special orders the closing of the harbours was effected and regulated by me. On this account also I promised the lascoreens employed in cruising on the east coast one-third of all arecanuts and cotton goods confiscated, as a means of securing greater vigilance on their part. It seems impossible to check these evil practices, in spite of all punishments prescribed in the *Placaats*. The greed of some strangers, and more especially of the people of Jaffnapatnam and of the Moors, seems boundless. I have therefore made efforts to keep them out of those places as much as possible. I had the names of the people of Jaffnapatnam and of the people from the coast entered in a thombo, and levied from them a tax of two fanams a year, and also made them perform some

services. I also prohibited the Commandeur and the Council of Jaffnapatnam from obtaining any grain from Coromandel, where it is usually very dear, and ordered that it should be obtained from Batticaloa. I have also ordered that the timber for Coromandel and Trincomale should be got ready and despatched as soon as possible.

The trade which is carried on here in the interests of the Company, with a view to make up for the expenditure, consists mostly in the purchase and sale of arecanuts and Madura cotton goods, although various other articles are also sold. The cotton goods are much in demand, and large quantities are transported yearly from Trincomale by the coast vessels. Another source of income is the sale of native liquor to the tavern-keepers, who pay twice as much as is paid elsewhere. As the Company does not farm out any of the revenue here, it may be concluded that on account of the closing of the harbours and of the monopoly in the trade in arecanuts and cotton goods, this source of income has also considerably increased. Thus, this station, from having been so far a burden to the Company, has now become one which yields considerable profit, which may be seen from the accounts. This year the surplus was Fl. 70,909·7; and this is to a great extent due to the various reforms introduced and to the prevention of all fraud, which formerly was committed on a large scale, especially where the arecanuts and cotton goods were concerned; and this was done publicly and before the eyes of the whole world. What trouble it cost to put an end to these practices will be borne out by the minutes of Council and the correspondence with the local officials. It is therefore very necessary that the orders on this subject should be maintained in future, and that the actions of the officials be watched; and that the strict oath now required to be taken by the Commissioners for the Arecanut Department and by the Receiver of the Shore Dues, as well as all concerned in these duties, must be demanded from them, so that the Company may be saved from the great losses which it otherwise would be subject to, and that it may obtain the large profits formerly made by private individuals and by its own servants.

CALPETTY.

Calpetty, with its five bastions, costs the Honourable Company little in upkeep, but it is necessary in order to control the trade in arecanuts and to restrain the deceitful pedlars of Putulang, who, belonging to the king's territory, are very anxious to possess themselves of this profitable trade. They therefore bribe the king's Dessaves, under

whose jurisdiction they are, and thus it is that they and these chiefs have repeatedly applied to have the nuts sold to them for less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ Rds. above our usual rate of purchase of 2 Rds., that is $5\frac{1}{2}$ Rds. per ammonam, in order to export them to the coast of Coromandel. This request I have each time bluntly refused, in compliance with the orders of our Superiors in the Fatherland. If the concession were granted, they would be sure to spoil the Company's profitable trade in cotton goods by importing these on their own account, a matter which is opposed to the best interests of the Company. In the instructions for the closing of the harbours issued in 1707, it was stated how prejudicial such action on their part would be to the trade in Manaar and Negombo, because the lake of Putulang is connected by a branch stream with the river of Chilauw. On account of the isolation of these shores guards of lascoreens have been stationed along the coast, and all other possible precautions have been taken. It is in this way that the state of affairs has improved in the district, and we now obtain a large quantity of arecanuts from the people of Putulang in exchange for cotton goods. The nuts are sold to the coast merchants. As these matters were formerly recklessly left to the *Opperhoofden*,²⁹ I have now arranged that they and two Commissioners do take the same oath as the officers in Galle and Trincomale. My expectations herein were fulfilled; for this station, which formerly was only a source of expenditure, has now become a profitable one. Last year there was a clear profit of Fl. 62,501·11·8, and this year of Fl. 31,556·11·8.

From our letters and orders sent from time to time to the same station, and especially from our letter of December 14, 1714, to the Fatherland, may be seen what difficulties we had to encounter before this result was obtained. With a view to a better prevention of smuggling, especially by the Chialias or Moors, both by water and by land, orders were given that a vessel was to cruise along the coast from the fort of Calpetty to the *hoek* of Coldermaale; and orders were also sent to Manaar to double the garrisons at Aripo and at the river of Moddergamme, a point already referred to. One-third of all confiscated goods has been promised to the quartermaster of the cruisers and one-third to the lascoreens. This has had a good effect, and has served to frighten the Chialias considerably. In order to prevent the merchants from the opposite coast buying arecanuts from the Putulang Wannias, instructions have been sent to the former station to warn the people not to buy arecanuts other than from the Company, and not to transport more in their ships than is stated in their passports, because if found doing so, their vessels and

cargo would be confiscated and they themselves put in chains. Orders have been sent to Manaar to carefully examine some of these vessels. In other respects the trade at this place does not amount to much. Sometimes dye roots are found on a certain island called Paredivo. These roots, as already stated, are in no way inferior to those of Manaar, especially when carefully collected and properly treated. But we have in vain pointed this out several times.

MADURA.

On the coast of Madura there are, for the promotion of the Company's trade, four separate residencies. The first is called Tutucorin, which is a stone fort, sufficiently strong for our force there, and capable of upholding the Company's right of possession. This may be seen from the various plans. North of this fort, in the territory of the Theuver, there is the station Kilkare, and south of it two stations called Ponnical and Manapar. These will be found indicated on the map of the coast in question. The two latter and Tutucorin are in the territory of the Naik of Madura. The trade which we are permitted to carry on there is of great importance and value to the Company, as will be shown in the proper place. I will merely state here that our profits have greatly fallen off, owing to much cavilling and opposition on the part of the Company's servants and others. When I assumed the command here, I found that this territory was quite independent of Ceylon, so that everything could be arranged to satisfy the greed and caprice of the former *Oppeerhoofden*.

Fraud was committed in every direction, both in regard to private trade and in the department of the cotton goods, as well as in the entering of taxes, accounts of expenditure, &c. All manner of schemes had been started, by means of which the authorities were hoodwinked. This fact has been clearly proved by the useful reforms made in the year 1712, referred to in our letter at the end of that year to Their Excellencies our Superiors, which were accompanied by the documents showing what rules had been framed from time to time as a preventive against such practices.

With a view to point out briefly the improvement effected in the condition of this coast by a comparison with former years, I will state here for Your Honour's information that all obstacles which were urged in excuse, such as the conduct of the land regents, the expensiveness of cotton yarn, want of fanums, mutiny, scarcity of provisions, and other similar difficulties, were entirely of a fictitious character, and served only as an advantage to the merchants to obtain a higher price for the cotton goods. Last year the same artifice was

used in Tutucorin, but I declined to accept any such pleas, and after some of the officers had been reduced in rank, it was found the complaints received were by no means so numerous. On the contrary, the trade has been carried on without interruption up to the present moment, and the required articles received in proper time. This may be seen from the orders executed, which are mentioned in the correspondence with the officials at Madura. Strict orders were issued for the early despatch of the goods required for the Fatherland and for Batavia, and I succeeded in reducing the price of cotton goods in spite of the scarcity of provisions. Care has also been taken for the cloths to be delivered as quickly as possible and to be of as good a quality as possible. Thus, all the so-called obstacles have been removed; no mutiny took place, sufficient fanums for carrying on the trade were supplied, and I made a contract with the merchants of the place on December 29, 1710, by which they have bound themselves to accept the Company's ducats at $21\frac{1}{2}$ fanums each. Thus, the Company makes an extra profit of $\frac{1}{2}$ fanum on each ducat over that made during the time of the late Governor Joan Simons.⁴⁵ By this and other measures there has been always a considerable supply of fanums on hand. I am sorry to say, however, that all exhortation of the officers could not obtain us a better quality of cloth for the Fatherland, about which many complaints were received. This is no doubt due to the carelessness and selfishness of the *Opperhoofden*, who seem to collude with the merchants when sorting the cloths, as shown in the above-cited documents, and especially in our letter of December 13, 1715, to Their Excellencies our Superiors. In these documents all the difficulties have been explained, and an account has been given of the action taken to check the officers and compel them to perform their duty. We hope that this has been effective, and that the present officials will be more faithful in the discharge of their duty. There is some assurance of this, as the profits have considerably increased. Last year they were Fl. 218,468.13.8, and this year Fl. 233,856.8.8. The increase would have been still greater if it had been possible for this Government to be provided with a larger quantity of Japanese and Tonquin copper, because this metal as well as pewter and tin are much in demand along the sea coast. I need not enter into detail of the way this metal is sold here, because several instructions from Their Excellencies the Supreme Government of India have been received on the subject, one only lately, to which I would invite attention. I would also refer specially to the Malabar trade in arecanuts, which is carried on both by land along the mountains, and by sea just below Collesegrepatnam. This is a source of detriment to

the Company's trade, because it prevents the Ceylon arecanuts being sold. Since the issue of my orders prohibiting the sale of the Malabar arecanuts the trade has been more flourishing; and last year 2,870 ammonams of these nuts were disposed of. This is a much larger quantity than was sold in former years, and it would have been still larger if the supply of nuts had not run short. From the documents preserved at the Colombo Secretariat may be seen what reductions had to be made in the price of chanks, which are found along the coast a little beyond Mokortoe, by the Paruas at certain seasons of the year, all of which must be delivered to the Company. Care must be taken that this is done. Although these shells do not sell quite readily at present in Bengal, the diving for them must not be neglected, because it is the livelihood of the poor Paruas.⁴⁶ If this failed, they might go away, and the Company cannot very well dispense with their services, especially if a pearl fishery is to be undertaken. At such a fishery the Paruas divers with their *thony*s are very necessary. Under the heading of the Aripo Pearl Fishery mention has already been made of the way this business is carried on. I will therefore not enlarge on the subject here, but simply state in conclusion that a large quantity of cowrie chanks is in store at Tutucorin. I would also refer to the chapter on Manaar concerning the precautions to be taken with regard to the territory of the Theuver and the free passage of Pambes. The Theuver can, and sometimes must, be forced to keep the contracts made with him before and during my time. I will state here with regard to him only that the station of Kilkare is situated within his territory, and that the trade there is a successful one. The quarrels originated by the Moor Peria Tamby have ceased entirely since the making of this contract, and, in accordance with the instructions of Their Excellencies, he has been prevented from spoiling our trade by his greed. This may be seen from the documents of the years 1708 and 1709 preserved at the Secretariat. They will show that I have often been obliged to threaten the Theuver with the closing of his harbours and the stopping of his trade both with Aatchin and Bengal on the occasions in which he failed to observe the agreements in the contract, and that these threats always proved successful. Last year the Company was of service to him by interfering on his behalf with the Danes, who had given the Tanjouwers help against him with their navy, in which encounter the Danes did not scruple to attack his vessels, though provided with passports and flying the Company's flag, and to capture them on behalf of the Tanjouwers. After some correspondence, however, which is preserved at the

Secretariat, this matter was also brought to a fairly satisfactory termination.

Leaving now the subject of the Madura coast, I recommend the preservation and promotion of peace with the Theuver and the Prince of Madura, as this will best serve the interests of the Company. Only in the utmost necessity, and if the Company's lawful prerogatives are seriously interfered with, should any rupture with these princes be permitted. The occurrences of the year 1710, related in detail in the journal of my visit to that coast, may serve as an example. At the commencement these differences were the cause of great trouble, but they have proved in the end to have served a good purpose, in so far that the letters received by the Company since that time have been free from complaints about the vexatious conduct of the land regents. They have now left the Paruas and the Company's merchants entirely in peace. This shows that there are occasions when it is necessary to employ the means recommended by our Lords and Masters for enforcing the terms of contracts and for upholding the dignity of the Company, this latter having suffered a great deal in Madura. Yet, the consequences must be well considered before such measures are had recourse to. It must especially be ascertained whether it would be possible to withstand the enemy and to gain an apparent advantage over him, and also whether all that is required for such an enterprise is on hand. If this be so, no time should be lost in hesitation, but a prompt and firm resolution arrived at; because irresolution in such cases aggravates matters. It only tends to make this proud but otherwise lazy and effeminate nation more bold; and it is also very unseemly for the chief ruler to show diffidence instead of courage and determination in settling such matters.

COLOMBO.

The Castle of Colombo is the most important stronghold in the Island, where are received and from where are distributed to the various Commandements and subaltern stations all the principal commodities and other effects sent to and from this Island. For this reason, and because of its situation, it has been chosen as the residence of the Governor and the seat of his Council. This I now desire to give over into Your Honour's hands with my best wishes. I must add here that this Castle, apart from its natural defences and its shores lined with rocks, has been strengthened by the formidable bastions Middelburg, Klippenburg, Enkhuysen, Den Briel, Battenburg, and the Waterpas. Besides these, the bastions Amsterdam and Leyden protect the bay, while Leyden bastion

with Delft, Hoorn, Rotterdam, and a part of Middleburg defend the land side. The whole of this fort, with its ramparts, bastions, &c., is about 989 Rhenish roods in circumference on the inside, and is provided with gunpowder magazines, arsenal, armoury, and warehouses, all in good condition and repair. The Company's military force consisted at the end of last month of 516 able-bodied men, who, considering their small number, are distributed to the best possible advantage. The garrison has been rather weakened by 108 military men having been sent to Malabar. As it seems likely that the war there will endure some time longer, it will be necessary, in case of any rupture with France or any other Power, to employ a number of Toepasses,⁴⁷ as I have myself done more than once. Those who have already been in service might be paid Fl. 7 per month, and those who never bore arms previously Fl. 5. If matters remain as they are at present the European force now employed will be sufficient, especially because the men are all well trained. All matters relating to the military have been well arranged, and all that could be desired for the protection and preservation of this important place has been attended to. With a view to maintain things in the same condition and to still further improve them I have introduced the practice of drill, one regiment twice a week during the good monsoon, outside the Galle Gate, in the presence of all officers, one of them in turn taking the command. The sergeants have to drill their men each at his post, and each in turn once a week go through the manual of the grenadiers and musketeers. Sometimes, in fine weather, I have ordered a full parade with eleven regiments to be held after Divine Service on Sundays.

Concerning the trade of this place little was said in the Memoirs of former Governors, and still less concerning the expenditure which the Company has had to bear contrary to all right and reason for so many years. I will therefore enlarge a little on this subject, and point out the chief reforms made by me in this matter. I will treat first of the arecanuts, with which the dishonest collectors dealt according to their own pleasure, and of which, in conjunction with the Commissioners, they yearly bought large quantities with the Company's money, and sold to the shipowners without any profit to the Company. Although thousands of ammonams were collected yearly on behalf of the Company, very little of it was sold, so that a large quantity had to be burned. On my arrival I framed suitable regulations to dispose of this matter. Yet they were not sufficiently effective to entirely remedy the evil. I was therefore obliged at last to appoint two permanent Commissioners, who have to be present at

the receipt of arecanuts, and who, as well as the Collector, are required to subscribe to an oath, the form of which is preserved at the Secretariat. I have also introduced various rules for regulating the private import and transport of these nuts, one of which is that so long as any coast vessels are anchored here, the banks of the river Mutwal up to a point just outside the town must be guarded day and night by the lascoreens of my guard, and beyond the Castle by the servants of the Collector. These men receive one-third of all goods confiscated, whether arecanuts or other contraband. These precautions have brought about the seizure, several times, of a quantity of nuts and other articles. I have also instructed the Collector to warn the owners on the arrival of vessels to abstain from clandestine trade, at the risk of their vessels and cargo being confiscated, and they themselves made liable to such punishment as has been decreed by the latest *Placaats* against smuggling. In this way the Company has at last become the sole master of this lucrative trade; so far indeed that yearly a few thousand ammonams of nuts are purchased on behalf of the Company and sold again to the merchants and others. This year the amount bought was 17,666 ammonams. The increase is also partly due to the suppression of the *rachodores*,⁴⁸ or forestallers, who used to go to the king's territory in large numbers and force the Sinhalese who were on their way here to sell to them their arecanuts and other articles at a very low price, by which many of the up-country people were discouraged from coming here. But since I had some of these *rachodores* arrested and put in chains, the up-country people have come to the Company's stores with 500 or 600 ammonams of the nuts at a time, and they also bring various sorts of provisions into the castle and the town, to the great convenience of the inhabitants. Care must therefore be taken that our orders to the Dessaves for the protection of the Sinhalese are observed. They must be escorted from station to station by a few lascoreens, with a view to prevent molestation, and they must be given the right of making direct complaint to the Governor if they are injured in any way. It has also been my practice, whenever the merchants from the opposite coast were unable to transport all the arecanuts from here, as well as from Galle and Calpetty, to supply it to the Chitties and Moors on credit, much to the advantage of the Company; as otherwise it would have remained on our hands. I also consider necessary to mention here the arrangement made for the disposal of the surplus arecanuts. Formerly this was appropriated by the *Oppperhoofd*,²⁹ and the Collector; but the last three years it has been reserved for the Company, the

disclosure having been made, quite in a disinterested manner, by the Commissioners, and a careful investigation of the matter having been held. The books prior to that time will fully explain this. It will be seen there that instead of receiving less than the amount due, the Company now receive a good deal more. It is therefore necessary not to permit the vessels from the opposite coast to transport any considerable quantity of coconuts. I used to allow those who bought about 200 ammonams of arecanuts to take away about 4,000 or 5,000 coconuts, for which they had only to pay 1 Rd. per thousand to the Deaconate.

According to all former Memoirs, the trade in cotton goods here was of little importance to the Company. The authorities had to be satisfied with all manner of long-winded statements, in which difficulties of every description were urged, with no other purpose than to cover the corruption that had crept in. I exposed the whole scheme, as will appear under the subject of Galle and Madura. It caused a great deal of trouble, but had a good effect. For the Company (which formerly was but a small participant in this trade) now enjoys the considerable profits to be made from it, and which it has a lawful right to. Various rules were framed on the subject, which will be found in the minutes frequently referred to, and in the various letters to Galle, Tutucorin, Matura, Trincomale, and Calpetty. These rules cannot be conveniently ignored, but daily supervision is necessary to enforce them and prevent their falling into disuse.

The Trade Accounts will show the extraordinary difference in the sale of cotton goods during my rule in comparison with that of former years; and that here in Ceylon, though but 26 hours' journey from Tutucorin, 65, 70, and up to 72 per cent. profit is made, even on the second and third qualities. Last year this profit was Fl. 39,315, and this year Fl. 30,221.16.

Salt, with which the officials at Madura also committed much fraud in the purchase, about which a full account will be found in our letter of July 20, 1713, to Batavia, and of December 19, 1714, to the authorities in the Netherlands, is also an article which I have restored to the Company. I made an order that the officials should no longer deliver it, but that this should be left to the Tutucorin merchants in cotton goods, who were to supply it at one-third the former price. Thus, considering the ready sale it finds in Colombo, the Company now makes a fair profit on this article, especially since the prohibition of its importation by private individuals, which used to be carried on in *half hoekers* and sloops.

The subject of the *Dessavoine*,⁴⁹ and the shameful manner in which it was formerly administered, is also shown in detail in our letters of December 19, 1713 and 1714, to the Fatherland, and the reforms introduced by us will be found mentioned there, with the effects they have had. I would therefore refer you to these documents, merely adding here that I had intended to have a Head Thombo compiled for this province, like the one for the Commandement of Jaffnapatnam, but this has proved impracticable in consequence of the people changing their residence every year. It will therefore be sufficient if my instructions and the improvements and other matters referred to be maintained by the strict daily supervision of the Dessave. As previously stated, the draught on Malabar for timber has been put an end to, as we could do without it, and as much fraud used to be committed therewith. The inhabitants of the Malabar Commandement are also excused now from the delivery of *kayen*.⁵⁰ In a few years we will also need no more timber from Trinconomale, because the same kind and beautiful *kiâte*⁵¹ beams might be obtained from the Hine and Hevegam Korles. This year an experiment was made, by the felling of over 2,000 trees which had been specially planted before my time and now reached proper maturity. These are good for planks and other timber.

The capture of elephants in this part of the country has often been successful. Thus, the Dessave again lately captured 47 animals, some of which are very fine. All these and a part of those now kept in the stalls at Matura must be sent to Jaffnapatnam next spring.

It is also a matter of the greatest urgency that the Moors should be kept out of the country. As will appear from the Resolutions of January 29, 1712, the Memoir of His Honour Thomas van Rhee, and the Journal of His late Honour Governor de Heere, their presence is very prejudicial to the interests of the Company. Due attention must be paid to our order on this subject, viz., the examination of vessels from the coast on arrival and departure. Those who endeavour to escape this examination must be put in chains and made to serve at the public works. But those who have been permitted for many years to live either here or in the Galle Commandement, and the Chitties and Paruas, are to be permitted to remain on their performing extra services whenever any such work is to be done, which, especially here in Colombo, they willingly do, as they are now free from poll tax. Beyond this no Moors may possess any immovable property, in terms of the *Placaat* issued by His Excellency Rycklof van Goens, Sr., bearing date December 2, 1665, and of the letter from Batavia of December 13, 1700.

The Leper Hospital, commenced by His Excellency Cornelis^o Joan Simons, but completed by me, is a very large building, and about eight times the size required. Their Excellencies the Supreme Government have been justly displeased regarding this matter; and because the expenditure for its upkeep amounted yearly to a considerable sum, I proposed to Their Excellencies to break down part of it and sell the materials. Authority having been received this has been done, much to the benefit of this hospital. It, therefore, now has yearly a considerable surplus, and its present capital is Fl. 91,841·7·8. With a view to its affairs being properly managed, I have appointed the *Coopman* and *Negotie Boekhouder*⁵² Jacob Bouer, besides the Head Physician of the Dutch Hospital, and Dr. van der Stadt, as regents, and have provided them with instructions, which are preserved at the Secretariat.

The number of the Company's slaves and the manner in which they are distributed may be seen from the General Muster Roll and from the more detailed list. The minutes often cited will show what reforms have been introduced in regard to this matter. It will therefore be unnecessary to repeat them here.

The expenditure on account of salaries of Europeans, the wages of the slaves, and other items, such as those on account of hospitals, rations, equipment of ships, presentations, interest, secret correspondence, salaries generally, warehouses, dwelling houses, fortifications, council chambers, extraordinary expenditure, &c., has been considerably reduced, both here and in all outstations. This may be seen from the books and correspondence.

In the matter of the Seminary or Training School in the suburb⁵³ (*buitenstad*) of Colombo, I have also introduced many changes, which may be seen, for instance, in my amplified instructions for the Rectors of that institution bearing date March 2, 1709. As Curators have been appointed the Dessave Jeremias van Vliet and Captain Joan Beekman, and as Rector the Rev. Petrus Synjeu. The latter has spared neither time nor trouble to carefully instruct the students (of whom there are at present twelve from the most respectable families of the Matura district) in the foundations of Divine Truth, in Philosophy, and in the Dutch language. We hope and trust that some of them will with God's blessing become in the course of time useful instruments for the conversion of their countrymen; to enlighten them with the aid of the revealed truth which leads to salvation. As stated already, three students from the Jaffnapatnam Seminary have been appointed Proponents, and they preach with much success on Sundays in the Malabar language, one in Negombo and two in Jaffnapatnam. They first submit their sermons in Dutch to the clergy, who revise, and, if necessary, correct

them. We must, however, much to our regret, state here that a few days ago we discovered infamous and serious offences on the part of the Proponent Jan Anthonys.

The churches and schools both in this district and in the Commandements of Jaffnapatnam, Galle, and Matura are twice a year visited by the clergy, accompanied by an interpreter. On these occasions the parents and children are examined, and the youths who have reached the required age are discharged and enter the Company's service. Since my arrival here many heathen *have been admitted into the bosom of the church by holy baptism, through the zeal of the clergy, and religion has greatly advanced, in spite of the blindness of this people. This was due partly to the translation of three of the Gospels from Dutch into Sinhalese by the Rev. Wilhelmus Conyn, which were distributed all over the country and read to the natives with good results. At the Secretariat may be found the *Placaats* and other useful Ordinances for the prevention of irregularities on these visits, and for the control of the schoolmasters, who, especially in the lands of Galle and Matura, fell into all kinds of extravagances and greatly oppressed and harassed the poor natives. These *Placaats* have had a good effect.

Indigo fields were happily discovered in this Island in the year 1713. As this valuable dye grows luxuriantly all over the country, I set apart a few splendid fields, which I had properly prepared, and I hope now that our friends at Coromandel will send us a large quantity of seed, which is found there in abundance. But how little obliging they are, especially in regard to this seed, will be found referred to in our successive letters to Batavia and the Fatherland. We have been obliged to fall back on our own resources and obtain the seed with much trouble from collections made in the country. It is true that the Kandyan king kindly sent us a few cartloads of indigo seed, but through the ignorance of the people who had to look after them the plants did not come to proper maturity and therefore were useless. Owing to all these obstacles I have not been able to carry out my object in regard to this matter, and thus the expectations were not fulfilled. It is to be hoped that after my departure the officials at Coromandel will have more regard for Your Honour's wishes in the interests of the Company. So long as I have been here they have been in an attitude of persistent opposition towards Ceylon in regard to all its projects. I hope you will succeed in obtaining a large quantity of seed, and be able to satisfy Their Excellencies our Superiors. In our letter of December 13, 1715, will be shown what instructions have been given and what reforms effected with regard to the boiling of the indigo.

The work of the *Visite Comptoir*⁹ (Verification Board) and its usefulness is shown in our letter of December 19, 1713, to Their Excellencies our Superiors. It is there explained how the books are verified, and how all wrong entries and unnecessary expenditure at the outstations are discovered, points which were formerly passed over unnoticed. In the last letter from Their Excellencies, of July 9, 1715, the maintenance of this Board has been approved. I would here refer to that letter and to the Ordinances issued by me from time to time for the guidance of the Board. I must recommend to Your Honour the continuance of this office. The letters sent to the Fatherland will also show you the numerous profitable reforms and arrangements made by me in regard to the loading and unloading of vessels and the issue of articles required by the departing vessels, as well as the orders we issued after the discovery here of the reckless practices in vogue in regard to the issue of articles. As a specification of these will be found in the oft-quoted Compendium, I will not repeat these matters here, but only state that when the rules are followed all fraud both here and in the outstations is bound to be discovered. To this Your Honour's zealous assistance and fidelity in your quality of *Hoofd Administrateur*¹ has greatly contributed, so much so, that by the avoidance of unnecessary expenditure and the discovery of new sources of income I have been enabled to convert this Island from a burden and source of expenditure to one of considerable profit, as will be borne out by the accounts. Last year's accounts will show that the surplus for the whole of this Island, with all its dependencies, has been Fl. 514,137.15. And it must be noted here that Colombo (which alone has to bear nearly as large an expenditure as all other stations together) last year had a clear profit of Fl. 86,025.9, and this year Fl. 135,436.15. Thus, the Ceylon Government's accounts show a clear profit of Fl. 437,658.5. This would have been considerably more were it not for the trade in cotton goods and arcanunts having suffered largely since March last by the closing of the king's gravets, and by the trade in elephants having suffered through the malice of the Jaffnapatnam interpreters and other opposing influences.

Cinnamon is one of the principal and most profitable sources of income to the Company in this Island, and the subject would require an extensive treatise were it not that it had been fully dealt with in former Memoirs by successive Governors, especially His Honour the late Governor van Rhee. In his Memoir is stated at length how many different castes of *Chiatias* (Cinnamon Peelers) there are, by what names they are known, what service each has to perform, who are the

chiefs and lascoreens placed over them, &c. I would, therefore, refer to these documents, and would only mention here the changes introduced by me in this important work, as may be seen also in our letter of December 19, 1713, to the Fatherland. One of these is the general prohibition to the overseer of the Mahabadde and other chiefs to peel or deliver any but the right kind of cinnamon, viz., that called *rassoerende*, and not the thick and tasteless bark, about which Their Excellencies had complained previously. With a view to prevent such complaints in future, the chief overseers in Galle and in Colombo have been ordered to be present at the delivery of cinnamon and to taste and examine it. This must be observed, as a rule, in future. Care must also be taken that the people of this useful caste, which is indispensable to the Company, are not injured by any one. I made it my care to protect them, and the result has been that all the orders from the Fatherland for the last two or three years, amounting to 700,000 or 800,000 pounds, could have been executed. This result was also due to the kindness which the peelers met with in the king's territory, and the strict orders of the Kandyan king to his subjects not to damage the cinnamon trees, and still less to destroy them. In this way it was possible to peel a large quantity of this spicy bark in the king's territory, although not without much trouble, and to have this spared our own forests. It was, however, necessary to pass a resolution that for the next two or three years not more than 6,000 or 7,000 bales should be peeled, for the reasons stated in our Resolutions of Council of October 7 last, which will be found in the brief minutes referred to. I also issued orders against the felling of these valuable trees in the Company's territory. The villagers are not allowed to clear and cultivate any *chenas* or fields before they are inspected and a note made of the number of cinnamon trees found thereon by the Dessave and the Captain of the Mahabadde. Not more than six or eight trees are permitted to be cut down on any land, and a heavy penalty is imposed for the breaking of this rule. This is all I need state here in regard to the subject of cinnamon, as Your Honour may at any time obtain information on the subject from the experienced Captain referred to and from some of the members of Council. In our letter sent to the Fatherland at the end of the year Your Honour will see what precautionary measures I had introduced in regard to the burning of cinnamon oil, with a view to obtain a larger quantity of this oil than in former years. As may be seen from the appendix to the letter just referred to, not more than pounds of oil was obtained from 200 pounds of cinnamon, while last year from cinnamon*sticks which had been lying

in the warehouses for more than seven years, and which had become almost flavourless and odourless, in three successive distillations of 2,000 pounds each, 7, 8, and 10 pounds of this valuable oil were obtained respectively. Fifty more pounds of oil are required for Their Excellencies, and there is still sufficient old cinnamon in the warehouses to make up the rest of this quantity. Special care must be taken that this boiling and distillation is carried out in Your Honour's house, under proper security and under supervision by an experienced Committee, because this seems to have been neglected formerly.

Having now mentioned the chief reforms and improvements introduced during my rule without any extraordinary trouble or cavilling on the part of those affected, we will add here that Their Excellencies lately made an order that the sale of lands and gardens should be entirely stopped. We have, therefore, forwarded these orders to Jaffnapatnam and Galle to stop the sales there. Their Excellencies require information as regards the condition of these lands, but I will not take up time in supplying the particulars here, because it would require considerable time, which I cannot spare before my departure. I therefore intend on my safe arrival in our dear Fatherland to make a comprehensive report on this subject to Their Excellencies, for which I am taking with me the necessary extracts.

With regard to the Kandyan Court, I must remark here that it gave me no little trouble since my arrival in the Island, now nine years ago. For not only had I to see a new and young king mount the throne, but I had also to cut the Gordian knot with regard to the difficult problem of the closing of the harbours, and this after the courtiers had already got accustomed to the large profits derived by them from the opening of these harbours, which had been done by the orders of Their Excellencies at Batavia. This was put an absolute end to by the strict orders from the authorities in the Netherlands, who instructed us not to open them again on any account. Besides this, I had no little trouble to withstand the dangerous intrigues of these courtiers, who obviously in various ways showed their displeasure at the closing of the harbours. This may be found mentioned in our letter to the Fatherland of the year 1713. The object of most of their intrigues was to monopolize to themselves the trade in arecanuts and cotton goods, which is also referred to in the above-mentioned letter. My letter to these courtiers, in which I quoted the Resolutions of Council of January 29, 1712, has had a good effect, and to this is largely due the increase in the revenue of the Island. Although some of the courtiers several times agitated for the re-opening of the harbours, or at least of that of Putulang, they did not gain their object, and since the despatch of my

•letter they have not dared to use the name of the king any more in order to obtain their object, a thing they had done previously. Should they again attempt to make use of the king's name in the endeavour to secure this object, it will be necessary for Your Honour to write them a sharp letter to restrain them, and you will have to complain in significant terms of their unfounded pretences. There are also a few passages in my letter to them which might be repeated when Your Honour has acquainted yourself with the matter, and, if they persist in their solicitations you will be obliged to inform the king of the circumstances. I have often done so with good results, and Your Honour cannot do better than follow my example.

As regards the harmonious relations between His Majesty the King of Kandy and the Company, it may be said that they have been brought to an excellent footing by my sending him presents and by the friendly communications we have carried on. He considers the interests of the Company as his own, and three instances among many others of this singular favour stand out from the rest. The first is that when we complained of the destruction of a large number of cinnamon trees in His Majesty's territory, he issued orders prohibiting this, and threatening those who broke any branches or sprouts from these valuable trees with pain of death. Thus, a larger quantity of cinnamon is procurable now than ever before. The second instance is where the rebellious Wannias last year sent two persons to the king with presents and a petition that, being in disfavour with the Company, they might be granted a safe retreat into the king's territory, and that he would also intervene on their behalf on their promise of eternal obedience and vassalage. Instead of acceding to these favourable proposals, the king became indignant at the presumption of these people to appear at his Court with proposals so prejudicial to the Company. He would have had them beheaded were it not that some of his favourites proposed that these emissaries be sent to the Company that they may receive their due punishment. They were accordingly brought here in chains in the name of His Majesty, and the olas written by their chiefs, which the king had not even condescended to read, were handed to me. The third mark of favour which His Imperial Majesty has shown is in his having at the beginning of this year done me the honour of appointing me to the exalted office of his Privy Councillor, sending two ambassadors to inform me thereof. This is referred to in the letter sent at that time to Batavia. The king has given further proof of his candour and friendliness in a manner very different from the former attitude

of his government, by informing us beforehand that he intended to send the Court Adigaar and Dessave of Saffragam with a Mahotiar or Court Secretary, as well as other chiefs, accompanied by a large number of lascoreens, to the boundaries of the Company's territory at Aripo, Hangwelle, Galle, and Matura, for the purpose, as stated, of digging for precious stones. He informed us of this intention by an ola sent by two ambassadors, in order to avoid rousing our suspicions when we saw these chiefs and soldiers near the Company's outstations. Such a thing never occurred before. Besides this information, the ola contained other expressions of friendship and confidence. Yet, however plausible and satisfying this unusual notice was, I took the precaution of sending everywhere special orders to keep guard, and to observe the movements of these men; and also to double the garrisons of those stations to which they had come in proximity without much stir. This may be found referred to in my secret letters sent at the time and preserved at the Secretariat. Like measures were always taken whenever I heard through my spies of the least commotion in the king's territory. I would advise Your Honour to follow the same course, and to always watch the movements of the Kandyan Court, while at the same time to carefully avoid giving any cause for displeasure on their part. The case of the late Ambassador de Bevere⁵⁴ and other occurrences may serve as examples. The papers on this subject are preserved at the Secretariat. I would advise you to always act without regard to persons; to always give the king and his people what is theirs by right, and to be thus the better able to oppose any unlawful pretences on the part of the courtiers, as well as to avoid all suspicion. For one must certainly look upon this court as very cunning and suspicious in its character, although there is no fear of a rupture between it and the Company so long as the present king reigns, even though the gravets have remained closed since the month of May. The trouble about the harbours seems to be the work of some malicious courtiers, who endeavour to compel us in their private interest to open the harbours of Trinconomale or Calpetty. They have been furthered in their scheme by the precarious condition of the king's health for some time, owing to which these chiefs were able to arrange everything according to their own fancies and in their own interests. His Majesty himself did not inform us of what passed in the lowlands or of the closing of the gravets, nor does he seem to know anything about the vexations to which some of the cinnamon peelers have been subjected in the Seven Korles, as stated at length in our

letter of August 3 last to Their Excellencies at Batavia. An account is also given there of our conference on July 15 with the Kandyan Chiefs Hewahetta, Mandangwelle, Batterale, and Philipitie Mohandiram. But as I am informed that the king is recovering, I have no doubt that the gravets will soon be opened, especially as our Ambassador Mr. Johannes Jenner will arrive at the Kandyan Court and convey the instructions of Their Excellencies our Superiors for the continued closing of the Ceylon harbours. This will put an end to the hope of the chiefs that they could succeed in having them opened after my departure.

The ceremony to be observed at the reception of the Kandyan Chiefs according to their rank will be found described in the journals preserved here at the Secretariat. Care must be taken that during their stay at Wolvendal⁵⁵ they are hospitably entertained and regaled with such things as snuff, tobacco, tea, &c. (if they ask for it). In the same papers will be found a description of the state and order to be observed when our ambassadors set out. I usually sent them in the month of February, as being the most suitable time of the year, and on the same occasion presents were always despatched for the king. The opportunity is taken at the same time to make the request that our cinnamon peelers may be allowed to peel cinnamon in the king's territory, and that we may be permitted to transport the elephants along Putulang and other districts outside the Company's territory to Jaffnapatnam.

Having now stated the chief points of information needed by Your Honour, I have only to add as a strong recommendation the careful custody of the Panguan or Java Princes and the Prince of Macassar Aroebeck. For further particulars on this subject I refer to the Journals, Resolutions, and other documents and communications between that place and this, which are preserved at the Secretariat. I now resign to Your Honour, in a restful and peaceful condition, a flourishing, valuable, and important Government, thanking God Almighty from the bottom of my heart that He has been pleased to bless this Government during my rule, and to employ me as an instrument to clear and disperse the clouds in which it had been wrapped for so many years. Wishing Your Honour no less a share of blessings from heaven, and hoping that you may rule this Government for many years in the interests of the General Company and to your own honour,

I remain, Sir,

Your Servant and Friend,

(Signed) HENDRICK BECKER.

Colombo, November 25, 1716.

NOTES.

* ¹ Isaac Augustyn Rumpf, born at The Hague, came out to the East in 1707. After first serving as Political Secretary, he was promoted Hoofd Administrateur of the Ceylon Government in 1715, from which post he succeeded Governor Becker in the Governorship, thus superseding the Commandeurs of Jaffna and Galle, who were his seniors in rank. This was the only instance in the whole history of the Dutch rule in Ceylon where the Hoofd Administrateur was immediately promoted Governor. Rumpf was a man of exceptional ability, but his career was cut short by his sudden death on June 11, 1723. For a fuller account of him see *Report on the Dutch Records in the Government Archives*, p. 31, note.

² The Journal referred to here is unfortunately no longer extant. It must have disappeared from the Archives many years ago. A diary of his tour from Colombo to Jaffna has been translated, and is appearing in the present series of publications.

³ The castle of Jaffnapatnam was surrendered by the Portuguese to the Dutch under Rycklof van Goens on June 22, 1658.

⁴ These "Compendiums" were annual reports furnished to the Governor and Council by the Commandeurs and subordinate rulers at outstations. They frequently contained separate administration reports and statistics supplied by heads of departments.

⁵ *Hammenhiel*, shank bone of the ham, so named from its position, Ceylon being in shape like a ham. The little fort in question was built by the last Portuguese Governor of Jaffna, Merle Menezes, shortly before the arrival of the Dutch.

⁶ Prince of Madura.

⁷ *Adigary*, a poll tax imposed in the Jaffna Commandement on some of the castes for the support of the adigars appointed over them. It was introduced by the Portuguese and continued by the Dutch.—*Memoir of Hendrick Zwaardcroon*, p. 21.

⁸ *Officie* (tax) was levied in lieu of service on all castes.—*Zwaardcroon*, p. 21.

⁹ *Visite Comptoir*.—Here were performed the functions of audit. The *Visite Comptoir* in Colombo occupied the site of what was recently St. Andrew's Church in the Fort, now the offices of Messrs. Freudenberg & Co.

¹⁰ Nicolaas van Heuvel, who was afterwards Commandeur of Galle, where, in the Dutch Church, is the tombstone over the grave of his son, who died in 1721.

¹¹ From the Portuguese *Thombo*, ou *livro em que se tombão as terras*. It was a register of lands, first introduced into Ceylon by the Portuguese, and continued by the Dutch during the whole period of their rule in the Island. It consisted of two parts: (1) the Hoofd Thombo, which gave the names of the proprietors and those who claimed under them; and (2) the Land Thombo, which contained the list of lands, with their description and the conditions under which they were held.

¹² This was Hendrick Adriaan van Reede, of Drakstein, Lord of Mydrecht, who was appointed High Commissioner to Bengal, Coromandel, Ceylon, &c., by the Directors of the Dutch East India Company in 1684. He died on board the ship *Drechterland* in 1692, on a voyage from Ceylon to Surat. For a fuller account of him see my *Report on the Dutch Records*, p. 39, note.

¹³ *Mayoraal*, a title introduced by the Portuguese. The word means a chief, as in *mayoral do gado*, the chief herdsman.

¹⁴ *Warrago* = varaku (*Paspalum scrobiculatum*), kada millet.

¹⁵ *Dessave*, a Sinhalese title for a Governor of a province, used by the Dutch in the Maritime provinces for a high European official whose functions corresponded nearly to those of a Government Agent.

¹⁶ See note ¹¹.

¹⁷ *Oely* is probably from the Tamil "nliyam," corrupted into *oelian*. Having originally meant the obligation of a slave to his master, it came in Dutch times to mean a compulsory service of a menial character which certain inferior classes were required to render.

¹⁸ *Nely* = paddy. Vieyra in his Portuguese-English Dictionary has "*nelle* : rice that has not been peeled."

¹⁹ "De Twee Gebroeders" (two brothers) were the twin islands Pallaitivu and Iranativu, which were also separately named by the Dutch "Hoorn" and "Enkhuyzen."

²⁰ See previous note.

²¹ The etymology of this word is doubtful. It has been frequently applied to a kind of cloth obtained from Coromandel for dyeing in Jaffna.

²² *Betteela*, *beatelle*, &c., the name of a kind of muslin constantly mentioned in old trading lists and narratives. This seems to be a Spanish or Portuguese word *beatilla* or *beathilla* for "a veil," derived, according to Cobarruvias, from "certain *beatus*, who invented or used the like." *Beata* is a religieuse.—Yule and Burnell's *Anglo-Indian Glossary*.

²³ A kind of chintz.

²⁴ A kind of cotton print.

²⁵ See note ¹².

²⁶ *Pattangatyn* is said to be a corruption of the Tamil *pattankutti*, and to be allied to the Sinhalese *patabendi* in the term "patabendi-arachchi," "a rank generally held by fishers." One of the duties of a "pattangatyn" would seem to have been the collection of fish market rents. The word is also applied in this sense to certain natives in authority at the pearl fisheries.

²⁷ The same as *dhoney*, a boat or small vessel used in coastwise navigation and for fishing and ferrying.

²⁸ The revenue having been obtained by a tax on the "stones" which the divers used to drop down with, the "free stones" represented those who were exempted from tax.

²⁹ The Dutch chief or agent at a minor station.

³⁰ Laurens Pyl was Governor of Ceylon from December 3, 1680, to January 10, 1693. He had previously been Commandeur of Jaffnapatnam, and on his journey to assume the Government at Colombo was met at Manaar by Robert Knox, just escaped from captivity, whom he took with him to Colombo.

³¹ Rutgart de Heyde succeeded Adriaan Roothaes as Commandeur of Galle, and Laurens Pyl as Commandeur of Jaffnapatnam.

³² This disagreement between the Governor and the Commandeur, in regard to dealings with residents within the latter's jurisdiction, bears relation to a grievance which the Commandeurs appear to have often ventilated, that their authority was interfered with and set at naught by the practice of complaints being heard and decided in Colombo without reference to the local authority. An example of this may be found in Zwaarddecröon's Memoir.—*Translation*, p. 8.

³³ The "Watering Point" at Galle has continued to serve this purpose up to the present day.

³⁴ These *paggers* were probably stockades built of wood and mud.

³⁵ *Mostets* = *muttettu*, a field which is sown on account of the king or her proprietor, temporary grantee, or chief of a village, as distinguished from the fields of other inhabitants of the village who are liable to perform service or render dues.—*D'Oyley*.

³⁶ A copy of the Memoir of Laurens Pyl (1693), purchased from Mr. Louis Nell, late Crown Counsel, is preserved in the Colombo Museum. That of Thomas van Rhee (1697) has been translated in the present series and will shortly be published.

³⁷ *Baygams*, same as *batgams*, certain royal villages held on condition of performance of service by persons of the inferior castes.—*Glossary of Native, Foreign, and Anglicized Words*, Government Press, Ceylon.

³⁸ *Accommedessans*, or sustenance land (*onderhouds landen*), were lands granted to headmen for their maintenance in lieu of salary.

³⁹ *Deccum* was a tax paid by the *deccumcarias*, who corresponded to coolies among the Chalias. They did duty as kanganies, messengers, and letter carriers, and were bound to serve in all ordinary, inferior, and servile occupations.—*Instructions from the Governor-General to the Governor of Ceylon*, p. 47.

⁴⁰ *Enge-badde* was a tax paid by the *corondahalias*, the lowest class among the cinnamon peelers, and consisted of a certain quantity of cinnamon. It was looked upon as their poll tax.—*Instructions*, p. 47.

⁴¹ *Wattoebadde* was a tax on arecanuts, and was paid either in money—rix dollars and stivers—or in kind.—*Memoir of Gustaaf Willem Baron van Imhoff*, p. 36.

⁴² *Cayer* = coir, coconut fibre.

⁴³ *Waterpas*, a dam or mole.

⁴⁴ *Schelling*, an old Dutch coin equal to 6d. in English money.—*Imhoff*, p. 11, note.

⁴⁵ Cornelis Joan Simons, who was Governor of Ceylon from May 11, 1703, to December 22, 1707. He left a Memoir, of which a translation is ready for publication.

⁴⁶ *Paruas*, *Paravars*, or *Parawas* were of the fisher caste, and formed in South India a community by themselves. They were christianized by the Portuguese.

⁴⁷ *Toepasses*.—This word is of doubtful origin; it is probably allied to "dubash." The *toepasses*, who were of mixed Portuguese and native descent, were employed by the Dutch in various inferior handicrafts.

⁴⁸ This word is no doubt derived from the Portuguese *rachador*, a hewer, cleaver, or splitter.

⁴⁹ The territory within the jurisdiction of a Dessave. See note ¹⁵.

⁵⁰ *Kayen*.—Probably *Kaya*, Tamil; *Tembiliya*, Sinhalese (*Eugenia bracteata*).

⁵¹ *Kiate*.—It is difficult to identify this with any of the different kinds of timber now in use here, unless the word be taken to be a corruption or variation of *Kahata* (*Careya arborea*).

⁵² Of these two titles, the first, *Coopman*, or merchant, describes the grade of the individual; the second, *Negotie Boekhouder*, or trade accountant, describes his office or post.

⁵³ *Buitenstad*, or outer city, was the part of Colombo cut off by the Dutch from the original Portuguese fortifications, and now known as the Pettah. These outer fortifications were demolished early in the Dutch rule.

⁵⁴ The allusion here is to Major Willem Hendrick de Bevere, who was in command of the Dutch Forces in Colombo in the early years of the eighteenth century. The incident referred to in the Memoir occurred in 1714. I quote the particulars from a memorandum supplied by me to a paper of the late Mr. Donald Ferguson, read before the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society on November 4, 1907: "On the 9th September, 1713, the Council unanimously elected him (de Bevere)

Ambassador to the Kandyan Court, and the Embassy soon after set with the usual pomp and ceremony. Nothing untoward appears have occurred in the journey up-country. The conduct, both of the Ambassador and of his retinue, was everything to be desired, and the reception at Kandy was most gracious. But de Bevere is said to have taken umbrage at the quality of the return gifts which the King presented to the Embassy. He looked upon these as of too little value and unworthy his position and dignity. In the rancour created in his mind by this, which he looked upon as an insult and indignity, he appears to have behaved in a most rash, if not insane, manner. When immediately after the audience with the King, the royal repast was served out according to the custom of the country, he would not so much as touch or taste any of the dishes which were presented to him, but, in the most offensive manner, ordered them to be given to his slaves to eat. And the royal gifts, which he was bound to convey with due ceremony, covering them with a white cloth, he treated with great disrespect and contempt by tying them up at the foot end of his palanquin. Nor did he treat with any greater consideration the courtiers whom His Majesty appointed to accompany him on his return journey. These he insulted and abused, calling them scoundrels and rascals, and their priest, or *tangataar*, who was also in the company, he mocked and mimicked in the most irreverent manner. Not content with all this, he rushed after one of the *coraals* and some of the other chiefs, brandishing a cane, with which he threatened to flog and chastise them. The first intimation which the Governor and Council at Colombo received of these doings was from an *ola* despatched by the Interpreter Mudaliyar, Don Paulo Dias Gunaretna, who accompanied the Embassy. The Council, full of concern as to the result which these rash proceedings of their accredited Ambassador would have on the friendly relations then subsisting between the Court and the Dutch Government, decided to place de Bevere under arrest as soon as he should arrive at the capital, and also to forward to the Kandyan Court an *ola* despatch tendering apologies. In the meantime de Bevere was deprived of his seat in Council and of his local command in the army, while it was decided to dispatch him to Batavia by the vessel then ready to sail, so that he might be dealt with for his conduct by the Supreme Government of India."—*Journal C.B.R.A.S.*, vol. XIX., pp. 259, 260.

²⁵ A house was kept at Wolvendaal as a lodging for the Kandyan Ambassadors. They were conveyed in state every day from thence to the Audience Hall in the Fort (now St. Peter's Church), for the interview with the Governor and Council.

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