

MALDIVE ODD HISTORY
THE MALDIVE ARCHIPELAGO
AND ITS PEOPLE
VOLUME FIVE

LARS VILGON
STOCKHOLM 1995

No. 24.

In the present book of "Maldivian History, Vol. 5.", I have made my own translation work easy, as I have used almost all original English literature, and what more is, I have even used the original setting in three of the Articles, i.e. Horsburg 1826, Bell 1904, and Didi 1931. These three papers are to me known in just one original copy in the whole world, hard to find and almost impossible to copy.

My "Census 1835" is taken by available contemporary figures for about half of the Islands / Atolls, and by extrapolate these the whole population of the Maldivian Islands is calculated. The final figures are a good and valuable estimation of the Maldivian population in 1835.

The "Inspection Reports" from the Minicoy Island, by the Collectors Mr. PLATT and Mr. GRIFFITH are both handwritten manuscripts, from a time when the British Empire was losing its power.

The "Illustrations", Maps, Engravings, Photos, are shown in a not sufficiently good condition, due to the used reproduction method. My originals are all of a much better quality, and I am preparing for the storing of them on "PHOTO C.D."

The next "Maldivian History" will contain unknown letters from Commander ROBERT MORESBY, written during his Maldivian Survey 1834-1837, and "Papers relating to the Maldivian Islands 1904-1910" by H.C.P. BELL.

As always, my wife CONNIE FROM VILGON, has been my greatest help in getting the book done. You have made me aware of faults and corrected them for me. Thank you for your kind work.

Stockholm 6 June 1995.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul Vilgon". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

MALDIVE ODD HISTORY.
Contents of Volume Five.

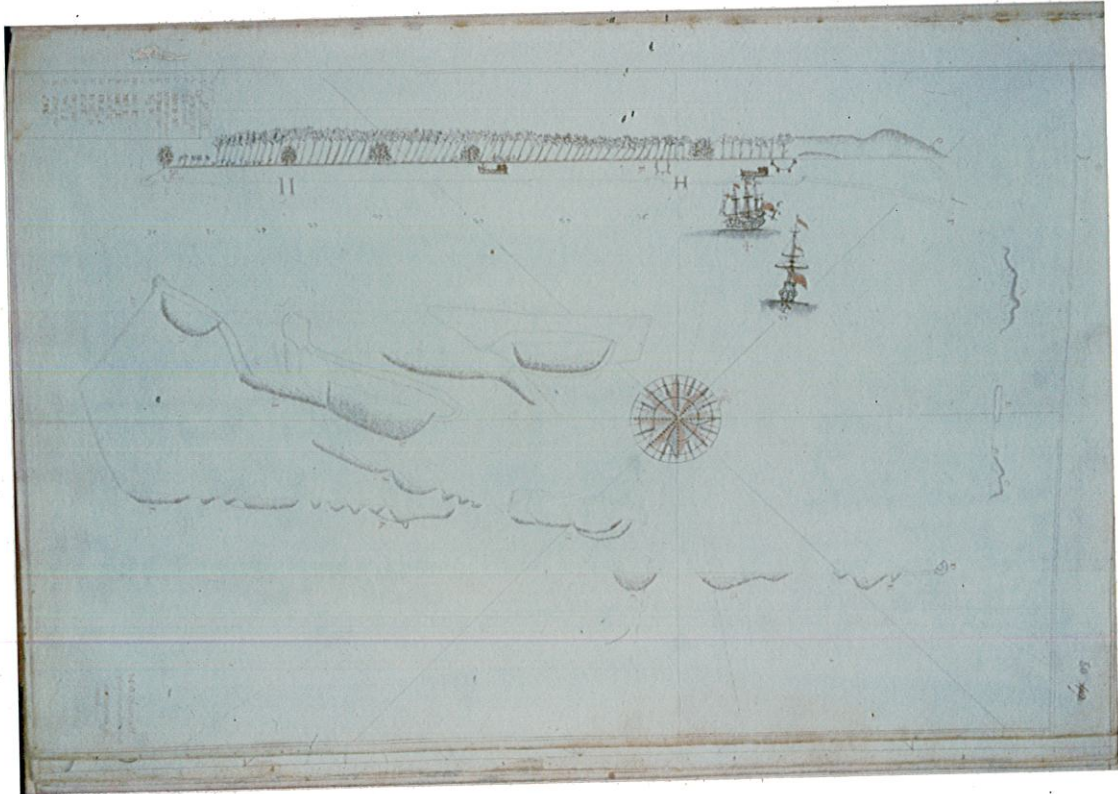
A Collection of 11 Entries translated to English
 from 4 Languages. 258 pages with 70 figures.

YEAR CONC- ERNED	AUTHOR or ITEM	LANGUAGE ORIGINAL	ENGLISH ADAPTATION	WRITTEN / PUBLISHED	YEAR	PAGE Text
1600-						
1822	HOURSBURG, JAMES	English	Horsburg, James	London	1826	20 1
1740	RAYNAL, GUILLAUME	Frensh	Vilgon, Lars	Paris	1770	2 41
1828	"E. R." COMMANDER	Frensh	Vilgon, Lars	Paris	1829	2 45
1835	MALDIVE CENSUS 1835	Svedish	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm	1994	2 49
1840	HALL, WILLIAM HAROLD	English	Bernard, William	London	1844	3 53
1887-						
1904	BELL, HARRY CHARLES P.	English	Bell, Harry C P	Colombo	1904	105 59
1908	GORDON-BENNET, JAMES	English	Vilgon, Lars	Colombo	1908	1 164
1931	MALDIVE CENSUS 1931	Divehi	Didi, Abdul Ham,	Male	1935	28 165
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1938	MURPHY, W. L.	English	Murphy, W. L.	Colombo	1938	5 231
1943	GRIFFITHS, J. C.	English	Griffiths, J C	London	1943	9 241

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 Kinnekulleavagen 40, Bromma/Stockholm, Sweden, Phone 46/8/252743,

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- (....) = Content's Information.
- [....] = Bibliographic Information.
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- «....» = Translation into English.

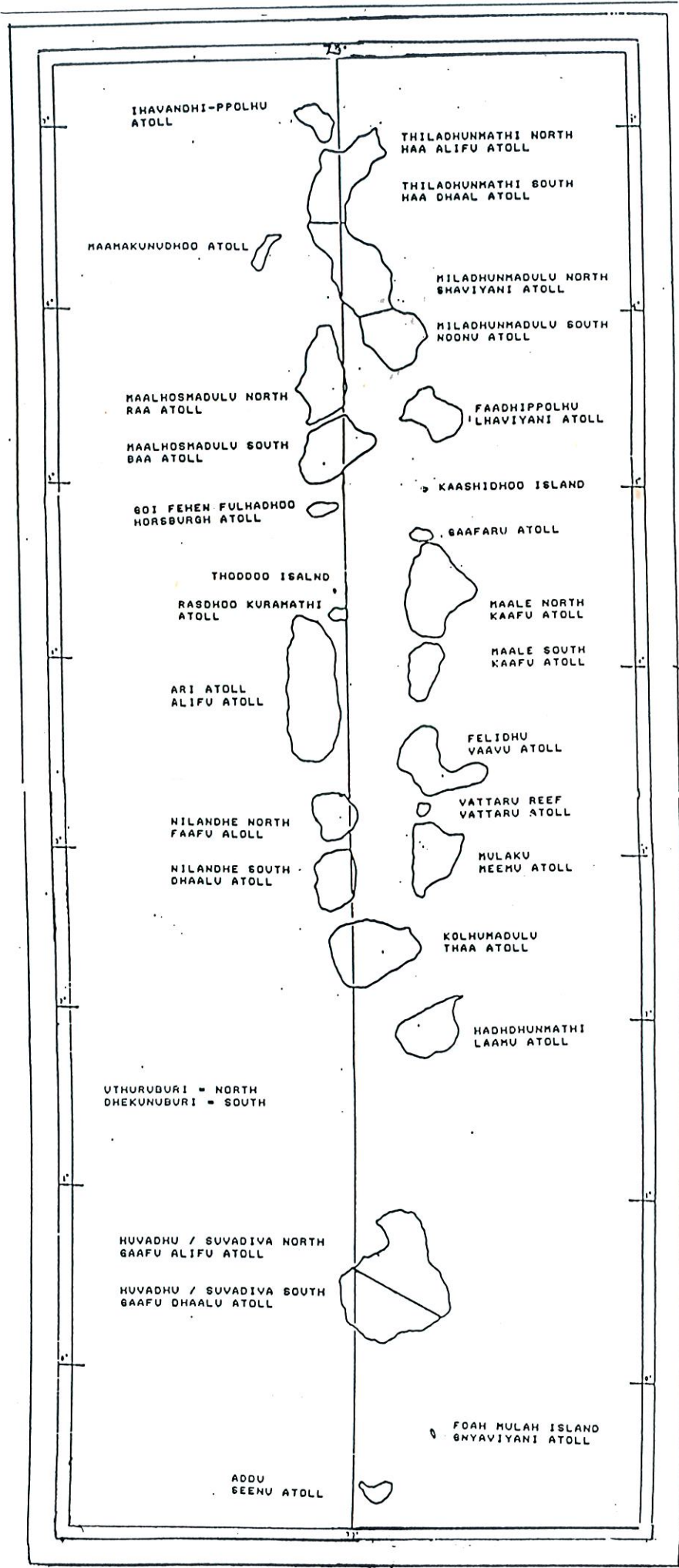


THE DESCRIPTION OF MALDAVIA ROAD
IN THE SHIP CHART, MAY ANNO 1683.

CAPTAIN JOHN PRESTON on "CHARLES"

Drawing by: NATHANIEL WARREN 1683

Lars Vilgon Lib. 1992.



1600-1822. HOURSBURGH, JAMES

IN: India Directory or Directions for Sailing to and from the East. Indies, China, New Holland, Cape of Good Hope, Brazil. Third Edition, [Only]. Vol. I. P.376-395. London 1826.

James Horsburgh was Hydrographer to the Honorable East India Company from about 1800, and collected Logg Books and Charts from English, French and Dutch merchant and navy ships. He published this Sailing Direction's First Edition in 1809, and the last Eighth Edition in 1864. The only Edition with this extensive description of the Maldive waters is the Third. It includes the European knowledge from 1600 to 1822, ca. forty Shipsloggs, some of great interest. It informs that the European ships had almost no contact with the Maldive islands or Maldive boats. That means that the European ships did not use the opportunity to get new provisions or fresh water from the different Islands. The Maldive people perposely avoided all contact. I have kept the original layout as it is very good. [ENGLISH]

Geo. Site of Minicoy.

MINICOY, OR MALICOY, in lat. 8° 17' N. lon. 73° 18' E. or 3° 42' West from Anjenga by chronometers, is about 6½ miles in length and ½ a mile in breadth, extending in the form of a crescent from N. E. to S. W. with the concave side to the N. W., where a circular coral reef projects out about 3 miles, and is joined to the extremes of the island. On the reef near the west point of the island, there is an islet with trees on it; and at the north end of the island, there is a passage through the reef, with 2 fathoms the deepest water, through which the boats and small vessels pass, but it is narrow and intricate. Where they lie within the reef, the water is deeper, 2½ and 3 fathoms over a bottom of hard coral, but chains would be necessary to secure a vessel, were there any swell. This island is very populous, and the natives are hospitable; it is well planted with cocoa-nut trees, and may be seen from the deck of a large ship about 3½ or 4 leagues.

Eight Degrees' Channel.

EIGHT DEGREES' CHANNEL, although not so wide as the other north of Minicoy, described above, is nevertheless very safe, and about 23 leagues broad, being formed between the head of the Maldiva Chain and the Island Minicoy, the latter bearing from the head of the Chain about N. by E. 23 leagues. By mean of many ships observations, the north extremity of the Maldiva Chain is in lat. 7° 6' N. lon. 73° 7' E., and Minicoy extends from lat. 8° 16' to 8° 19' N.

Geo. Site.

Sailing directions.

In passing through the Eight Degrees' Channel, it is prudent to keep nearer to Minicoy than toward the Maldivas, as the current sets generally to the southward, particularly in light winds, and during the N. E. monsoon, although it changes at times, and sets to the N. W. and Northward: but in the strength of the S. W. monsoon, mid-channel is the best track, or rather inclining toward the head of the Maldivas, if the wind should happen to blow strong and steady at S. W. or Southward.

If ships coming from the westward, bound to Ceylon or to the Bay of Bengal in the strength of the S. W. monsoon, do not pursue the route through the One and a Half Degree Channel, the Equatorial Channel, or any of the southern channels of the Maldivas, or to the south of all these islands; they may, in such case, adopt either the Eight or Nine Degrees' Channel, at discretion, although this route is more circuitous than the former.

With the wind steady at S. W., and their situation correctly ascertained by observation, the Eight Degrees' Channel may be followed, as it is rather more direct than that to the north of Minicoy; brief directions for passing through these channels, having already been given in the section, "PASSAGE from the COMORO ISLANDS, toward INDIA."

INDIA DIRECTORY,

OR

Directions for Sailing

TO AND FROM THE

EAST INDIES,

China,

NEW HOLLAND, CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, BRAZIL,

AND THE

INTERJACENT PORTS:

COMPILED CHIEFLY FROM

ORIGINAL JOURNALS AT THE EAST INDIA HOUSE,

AND FROM

Observations and Remarks,

MADE DURING TWENTY-ONE YEARS EXPERIENCE NAVIGATING IN THOSE SEAS.

BY

JAMES HORSBURGH, F.R.S. A.S

CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ST. PETERSBURGH,
HYDROGRAPHER TO THE HONORABLE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of
the Lord, and his wonders in the deep. PSALM CVII. v. 23, 24.

VOLUME FIRST.

THIRD EDITION.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

AND SOLD BY

KINGSBURY, PARBURY, AND ALLEN, BOOKSELLERS TO THE HONORABLE EAST INDIA COMPANY,
No. 7, LEADENHALL STREET.

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(376) *MALDIVA ISLANDS their extent, and SEPARATING CHANNELS, with SAILING DIRECTIONS.*

Maldivas.

MALDIVAS, OR MALDIVES, consist of a chain or range of innumerable low islands and rocks, extending nearly on a meridian line, from lat. $7^{\circ} 6' N.$ to lat. $0^{\circ} 40' S.$: the large islands abound with cocoa-nut trees, and are generally inhabited; but many of the others, are only sand-banks and barren rocks. The greatest breadth of the range is about 20

(377) leagues, formed of large groups or clusters, sometimes double, which are called by the natives Atolls, or Atollonis. Each of these, is circumscribed by islands and rocks, with others scattered inside in great numbers, upon the shoal coral bank that forms their base. There is said to be 13 large Atolls, from 5 to 10 leagues in diameter, with several other detached islands or rocks in the channels that separate them, some of which are wide and safe, as will be seen hereafter; but many of these channels are intricate, safe only for vessels that row with oars, as the currents run strong through them to the east or westward, generally with the prevailing winds.

Besides the channels which separate the different Atolls, there are various openings* through their exterior reefs, used by the Maldiva boats in passing from one Atoll to another, some of which have no soundings, or very deep water, and will admit large ships. There are no soundings in the channels which separate the Atolls, nor until close to the reefs; whereas, within the surrounding reefs, some of these Atolls have moderate depths, from 6 or 8, to 15 and 20 fathoms coral and sand, where a ship might occasionally anchor; but some of the Atolls are mere coral flats, only navigable by the country boats, and others have very deep water upon them in some places.

Monsieur Fortin, who commanded a vessel from the Island Mauritius, says, he has passed through all the channels which separate the northern Atolls, and found no anchorage outside of the Atolls, but within the reefs circumscribing them, good anchorage may be found of 20 and 30 fathoms, upon a bottom of white sand, mixed in some places with coral.

Although these islands have long been thought to present an impenetrable barrier of 480 meridional miles to ships bound to Ceylon, or the southern part of Hindoostan, consequently *dreaded* and *avoided* by modern navigators; yet the early traders from Europe to India, were much better acquainted with them than we are, and often passed through some of the channels which separate the Atolls, *without the apprehension of danger*. To restore this lost knowledge, therefore, has been a primary object of my attention for several years; and, as much time may probably intervene, before any regular survey of these remarkable islands is projected, or undertaken, I think it may be acceptable to oriental navigators, to have exhibited to their view, the information obtained from the journals of the Company's ships, or otherwise communicated to me by my friends; in order that the situations of the principal channels, navigable by large ships, may be approximated, if possible, nearly to the truth.

Better known formerly, than they are at the present time.

Tilla Dou Matis Atoll.

TILLA DOU MATIS, OR HEAD OF THE ISLES, the northernmost Atoll of the Maldivas, seems to be of considerable extent from north to south, and also from east to west. The isles which form the exterior boundary of this Atoll, appear on the north side to be protected and chained together by a reef, but on the east and west sides, there are several openings between the isles, for in those parts, some of them seem to be steep to, and not chained together by reefs as generally represented, which will be seen by the following extracts.

Dover Castle, from England bound to Madras, fell in with the head of the isles, or north side of the Atoll, a little after day-light, 11th of August, 1798, ranged along the northern or N. E. part of the chain at the distance of 2 miles, and at 8 A. M. it bore from S. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. to W. $\frac{1}{2}$ S., distant 5 miles. They counted 36 islands, chained together by rocks to the northward, on which the sea broke very high, with smooth water within the breakers; and a number of small craft were seen passing from isle to isle. At noon, observed lat. $6^{\circ} 50' N.$ then on the N. E. side of the Atoll, bearing from N. W. to S. W. by W., distant 3 or 4 leagues.

Dover Castle passed along the north side of it.

* These passages or gateways, are called *Bari* by the natives, and are mostly destitute of soundings. There are generally one or two of these gateways at the extremities of each Atoll, admitting a passage to the boats if driven to leeward by the tide or current, in crossing over from one Atoll to another.

CHART of the MALDIVES

From an English MS purloin'd in 1759 from the Collection of Capt. Francis Taylor

.VI. The name within / was added from Tyrard Local.

Men. By Observation 8th August 1783. M. Topping determined

the S^mall Island of the MALDIVES then bearing W. by N. in 7th S. Lat. (L.)

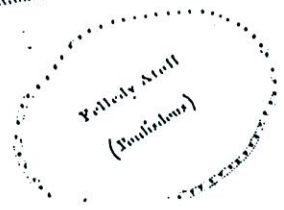
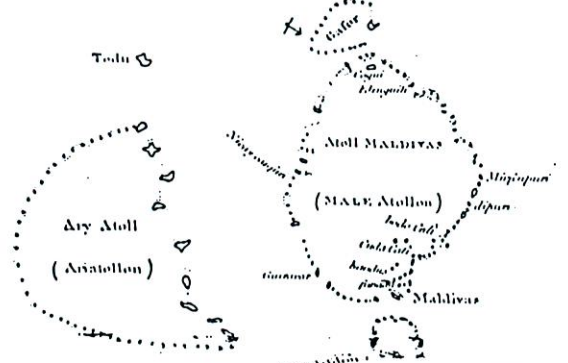
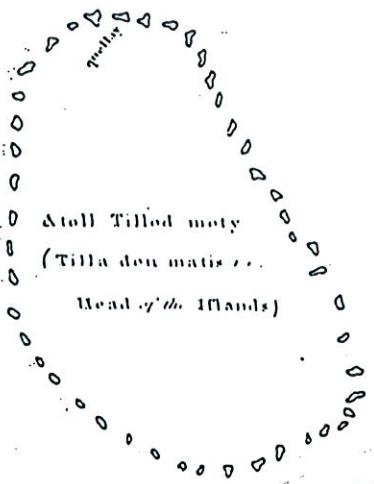


CHART OF THE MALDIVES, MANUSCRIPTS from FRANCIS TAYLOR COLLECTION, 1759, ENGRAVING DALRYMPLE 1784, NORTHERN PART [SOUTHERN PART Next Page.] L. Vilgon Lib

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Doddington
saw the east
side of it in
the night.

Doddington, from England, bound to Bombay, 22d of January, 1749, at 10 P. M. fell in with the eastern side of the north Atoll, in about lat. $6^{\circ} 45' N.$ when steering west to make the east part of Ceylon, but they soon perceived their mistake, by having no soundings, and the islands to which they nearly approached, seen by bright moon-light, being very low. They immediately tacked, and with the wind at N. N. E. stood off east till noon, and then observed in lat. $7^{\circ} 10' N.$ the islands of the north Atoll bearing from West to W. by S. $\frac{1}{2}$ S., seen from the mizen top. She was carried to the northward of the islands by the current, although steering east, having experienced a northerly set of 24 miles during the 24 hours.

From hence, with northerly and variable winds, she reached Cochin Road on the 5th of February.

East side
seen by the
Rooke.

The Rooke, bound to the Malabar Coast, 4th February, 1700, saw the east side of the north Atoll, or Tilla Dou Matis, the nearest island situated in lat. $6^{\circ} 40' N.$ was then about $2\frac{1}{2}$ leagues distant, with five other islands on each side of it. Several boats came near, but would not come along side. These islands are not tied together as laid down in the charts, but are separated from each other, and have fine passages between them: a strong current set us to the northward along the islands, so that by 1 A. M. we were carried within 2 leagues of the northernmost island, and at day-light none of them were visible. Variation $7^{\circ} W.$

West side
seen by the
King George

The King George, bound from England to Bombay, got close to the western part of this Atoll in the night, 23d January, 1721; steering east with the wind at N. N. E., at 3 A. M. perceiving high breakers close under our lee, tacked immediately, and stood off N.W. till 5 A. M., then tacked to the eastward. At sun-rise, saw three small islands bearing from N. by E. to N. E., distant 7 or 8 miles, surrounded by a great shoal, dry in many places, with breakers as far as could be discerned, bearing from North to E. by N. Stood within 2 miles of them, and got no ground at 100 fathoms. This I take to be the shoals of the Bassas d'Padra Banca, on the N.W. end of the Maldivas: I tacked from the shoal at 8 A. M. and at 11 A. M. part of the breakers in sight bearing E. by N., distant 4 or 5 leagues; steered N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. 3 miles till noon, observed lat. $6^{\circ} 34' N.$ which makes the body of these breakers in the same lat.

and by the
Josiah and
Abington.

The Josiah, in company with the Abington, after passing through the Cardiva Channel to the westward, in March, 1704, steered to the north-west and northward, and on the 10th of March, saw ten of the islands which form the N.W. part of the North Atoll, bearing from East to S. by E.; sent a boat armed to one of the islands, which returned in the evening laden with cocoa-nuts, the inhabitants having left their houses, and fled to the woods when our people landed.

Geo. Site.

By mean of several ships observations, by moon and chronometer, corroborated by those of Mr. Topping the Astronomer, of Madras Observatory, the northern limit of Tilla Dou Matis, is situated in lat. $7^{\circ} 6' N.$ * lon. $73^{\circ} 7' E.$ The southern extremity of this Atoll is not well ascertained, but it is probably in about lat. $6^{\circ} 20'$ or $6^{\circ} 25' N.$

Atoll, Milla
Douc Ma-
douc.

MILLA DOUC MADOUÉ, is the nearest Atoll south of the former, separated from it by a channel, *said to be* narrow and unsafe for ships; although it was probably between these Atolls, that the French ship La Reine sailed in 1750, through an intricate channel, having *apparently* entered it from the westward in about lat. $6^{\circ} 5' N.$, and was first obliged to steer to the S. Eastward, then to the eastward, in forcing her passage through this dangerous place.

Pirard La Val, who was long at the Maldivas, (having been shipwrecked there) says this channel is navigable in day-light, although very intricate.

This Atoll, is thought to extend southward to about lat. $5^{\circ} 30' N.$ and like the north Atoll,

* The observations of the Josiah, and Abington, in 1704, would place the isles at the N.W. part of the Atoll, considerably farther to the northward, but observations for lat. taken at that time, were often incorrect, from the instruments used, and the tables of the sun's declination, being both very imperfect.

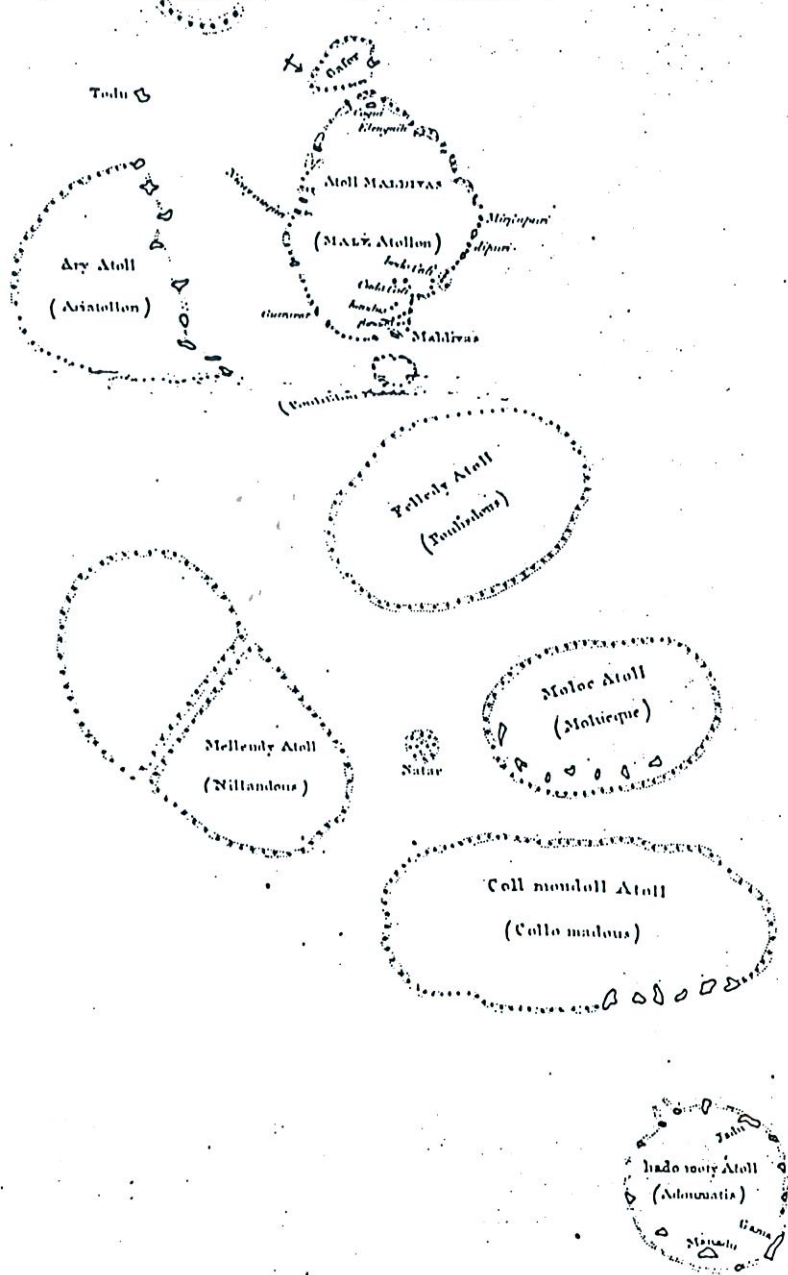
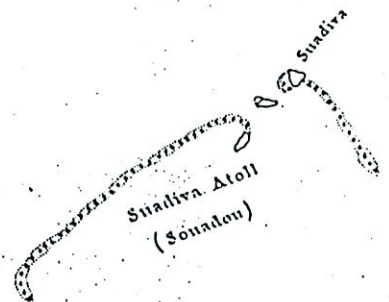


CHART OF THE MALDIVES, MANUSCRIPTS
 from FRANCIS TAYLOR COLLECTION, 1759,
 ENGRAVING DALRYMPLE 1784, SOUTHERN PART.
 [NORTHERN PART Preceding Page] L.Vilgon Lib.



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is circumscribed by many inhabited islands; one of the largest of these, appears to be Mafer, in about lat. $5^{\circ} 40'$ N. situated at the S. E. part of the Atoll, which in this part seems safe to approach, with anchorage among the islands, as will be seen by what follows.

Ship Recovery, from Bengal, bound to Kings Island Maldivas, 20th March, 1682, observed lat. $5^{\circ} 30'$ N. wind East and E. N. E., saw the Maldiva Islands bearing N.W. by W. distant about 5 leagues. Recovery. makes this Atoll.

March 21st, little wind in the night at eastward, with a hard squall at 4 A. M. find the current has set us to the N.W. among the islands, which are almost round us. At 10 A. M. during another hard squall at east, a boat came to us with a pilot, who anchored us at noon in 25 fathoms sand, Mafer, or Mabar Island bearing E. S. E., Watten E. by N., Landu or Lando N. E. by E., and Malendu or Marandue N. E. Anchors on the west side of Isle Mafer.

Lay at anchor here, till the 26th, the weather being unsettled, with rain, thunder, and lightning; calms on the 22d and 23d, and on the 24th stormy at E. N. E.

March 26th, at 4 A. M. weighed (having had two anchors down for security) and with the wind at N. E., steered S. S. E. and South till 6 P. M. then anchored in 24 fathoms.

March 27th, at 2 P. M. weighed with the wind to the eastward of north, and steered between two islands of the Padyolo Atoll, and at 9 A. M. anchored in 22 fathoms near the Island Sediva or Seckdiva, situated on the southern part of the Atoll, and having upon it a pagoda. Passes southward among the Isles of Padyolo Atoll, and anchors there.

March 28th, with the wind to the westward of north, weighed at 1 A. M. and at 4 P. M. passed the Island Cardiva or Cordue, expecting to anchor, but could find no ground within a cable's length of the ledge of rocks, projecting round about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile from the shore; so we passed it, expecting to find anchorage at another island to the south, called Gafor or Gafer. Could find no anchorage at Cardiva.

March 29th, steered South and S. S. E. till 7 P. M. with a fresh wind at W. N. W. till we came near the Island Gafer; our pilot being afraid, and having no soundings, laid the ship's head to the northward till 2 A. M. then tacked to the southward, and at 8 A. M. passed on the east side of that island, steering south with a light breeze at W. N. W., and the current setting northward. About 3 miles to the south of Gafer, there is a strait, not above 2 cables' lengths from side to side, through which we passed. From this narrow strait, the small Island Cagui, or Coddue bears south, where we found soundings of 19 fathoms, Muckandu Island bearing S. S. W., having had none since we left the four islands at Seckdiva. Entered by a narrow Strait, and

March 30th, at 5 P. M. anchored in 32 fathoms at the Island Muckandu, it bearing west, distant about 3 miles, our pilot being afraid to carry our ship nearer to King's Island till he obtains permission; we suppose the island is one of those in sight. At 7 A. M. our pilot went to a boat bound to Maldiva, and was told he need not fear to take the ship there: when he returned, we weighed with a small breeze at west, and steered various courses, luffing up for one shoal, and bearing away for another, which are easily discerned. anchored on Male Atoll, and sailed to the southward over it.

March 31st, at 5 P. M. anchored with Maldiva Island bearing S. S. W. about 2 leagues. Weighed in the morning, and have turned to, and fro, all this day.

April 1st, at 3 P. M. anchored in 25 fathoms, the wind fresh at west. At day-light weighed, and at 8 A. M. anchored at Maldiva Island: found here, two Surat ships, two Achen ships, and one Bengal ship arrived about an hour after us, which left that place about a month before us. We were 30 days from Balasore to our first anchoring among the islands, and 15 days more, till we arrived here. until she arrived at King's Island.

From this abstract, it appears, that the Recovery first anchored at the west side of the Island Mafer, on the S. E. part of the Atoll Milla Doue Madoue; from whence, she steered southward *apparently* over Padyolo Atoll, and anchored on its southern part near the Island Sediva. From this anchorage, she steered southward, passed the Islands Cardiva and Gafor, and then entered through a narrow passage into the north part of Male Atoll, upon which Atoll she found soundings of various depths, and anchored several times in her Remark.

passage directly over it, steering southward for King's Island. So, that it appears, some of these Atolls may be navigated by large ships in day-light, and places found, where they might occasionally anchor in the night.

Padypolo Atoll.

PADYPOLO ATOLL, is the 3d from northward, said to be of circular form, and adjoining to the south extremity of Milla Doue Madoue; its southern extremity seems to be in about lat. $5^{\circ} 10'$ or $5^{\circ} 16'$ N. and forms the N. E. boundary of the Cardiva Channel, having anchorage on it, near the Island Sediva, as shewn in the preceding abstract of the Recovery's journal, that ship having apparently sailed directly over the Atoll of Padypolo.

The Dawson fell in with this Atoll,

The Dawson, East Indiaman, from England bound to Bombay, fell in with the east side of Padypolo Atoll, 4th of Jan. 1721, and at noon observed lat. $5^{\circ} 30'$ N. when the islands bore from West to N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. about 5 leagues. At noon 5th, observed lat. $5^{\circ} 22'$ N. the islands bearing W. N.W. 5 or 6 leagues. At noon 6th observed lat. $5^{\circ} 44'$ N. Islands on the east side of Atoll Milla Doue Madoue bearing from W. N.W. to South, distant 3 or 4 leagues.

and was drifted close to an island of Milla Doue Madoue Atoll.

The winds being light from East and N. E. ward with calms, and the current setting to the N.W. she was carried close to one of the islands at 9 P. M., notwithstanding every exertion made to tow her off by the boats: and as one of the boats got soundings between the ship and the island, the anchor was dropped in 40 fathoms, and she brought up in 7 and 5 fathoms with two anchors, shortly after a third was let go under foot. About two ship's lengths astern, the boat found only 17 feet rocky bottom, and the island had a reef projecting out from it in a northerly direction. Before day-light, the ship drifted off this dangerous rocky ledge into no soundings, when the anchors were hove up, and with all the boats towing off to the eastward, she got well out from the islands by noon on the 7th, then observed the lat. $6^{\circ} 27'$ N. with the islands on the N. E. part of Milla Doue Madoue, bearing from S.W. by S. to W. by S. 5 or 6 leagues.

Malos Madou Atoll.

MALOS MADOU, the 4th Atoll, is situated to the west of Padypolo, and nearly joins to it, and to the S.W. point of Milla Doue Madoue. The French ship Corbin, was wrecked on the west side of this 4th Atoll, 17th June, 1602, in which ship was Francis Pirard de La Val, before mentioned, who gave to the public a particular description of the Maldivas, acquired during a long residence among them.

The Corbin, intended to have passed to the northward of all the Maldivas, but being much to the eastward of account, they saw in about lat. 5° N. some shelves surrounding little islands, and were driven upon the reef at the distance of 4 or 5 leagues from the islands. La Val, says, there are only four channels of the Maldivas navigable by large ships, which are frequently visited by strangers, when carried among those islands by currents; the northern of which channels, he states to be on the north side of Malos Madou, near where the Corbin was wrecked.

Goïdu.

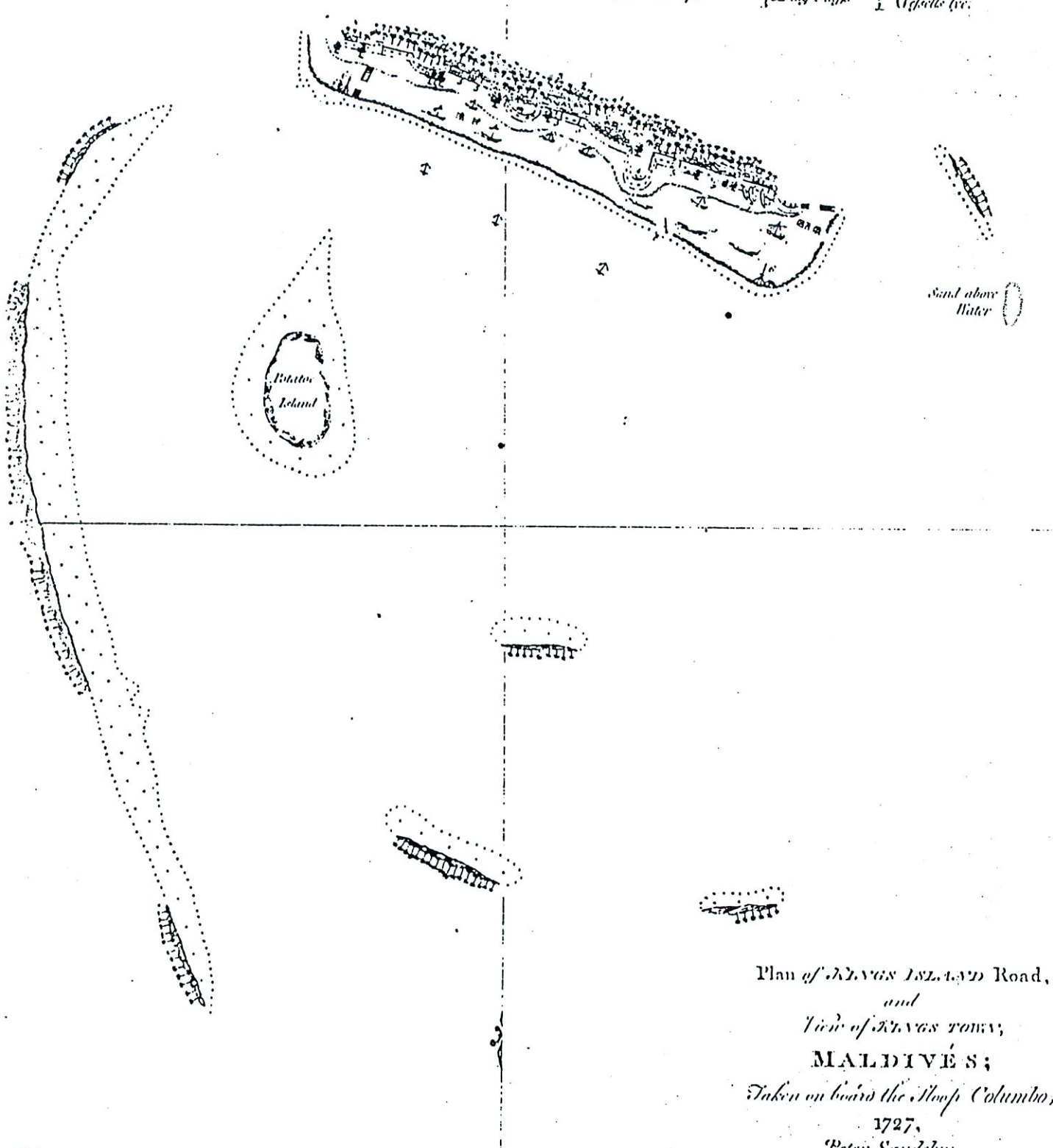
GOIDU, is an extensive reef with some small isles on its eastern part, and may be considered as part of Malos Madou, being, *as supposed*, nearly joined to the south extremity of that Atoll, and forms the boundary of the Cardiva Channel at the N.W. part, Padypolo Atoll, bounding it to the N. E. ward, as mentioned above.

Cardiva Channel, is the best of the northern ones; known in early times.

CARDIVA, CARIDOU, OR FIVE DEGREES' CHANNEL, seems to be the best of the channels which separate the northern Atolls, and is the second in order from the northward, (mentioned by La Val,) capable of admitting large ships. As this channel was better known to Europeans about a century ago, than it appears to be at the present time, it may be useful to endeavour to restore some of this lost knowledge, by stating the substance of all the information obtained, with a view of approximating to its true situation.

REFERENCES.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Kings Palace | 4. The High Point | 7. Kings Vessel |
| 2. New Pleasure Houses | 5. The City Gates | 8. Boom and Entrance |
| 3. The Mosque | 6. Flag Staff | 9. to where the small |
| | | Vessels lie. |



Sand above
Water

Plan of *KINGS ISLAND* Road,
 and
 View of *KINGS TOWN*;
MALDIVES;
 Taken on board the *Shoof Columbo*,
 1727,
 Peter Sandelyn.

Scale of Nautick Miles

Published according to Act of Parliament by A. Dalrymple 1773.

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Monsieur Fortin, who commanded a privateer from the Island Mauritius, says, he has run through all the channels which separate the Northern Atolls, and found no anchorage outside of any of them; but within them, good anchorage may be found of 20 and 30 fathoms, on a bottom of white sand. He, also, says, "there is particularly a channel between lat. 4° and 5° N. which would be adopted if its precise limits were known." This can be no other than the Cardiva Channel.

Description
of it by
French navi-
gators.

Mons. Chardin, another French navigator, describes a good channel to lie exactly in lat. 5° N. through which he had passed, and saw the islands on both sides of him at a considerable distance, and that it is frequented by the French vessels belonging to the Island Mauritius.

Abington, and Josiah, in company, bound from England to Madras, discovered by the view of three islands, that they were on the east side of the Maldivas, 29th of Feb. 1704; the current setting to the N.W. with light N. E. winds, they were driven near one of the islands on the east side of Poulisdous Atoll, in lat. $3^{\circ} 36'$ N. which a boat was sent to examine, but could not land on account of the adjoining reef. After standing off to the eastward during the night, they tacked and steered by the wind to the northward, till March 2d at noon, when two islands were seen, the northernmost bearing N.W. by W., and the other S.W. by W. distant about 4 or 5 leagues, with the appearance of islands to N. N. E. observed lat. $5^{\circ} 14'$ N. by the Abington, and $5^{\circ} 0'$ N. by the Josiah. † Variation per amplitude $6^{\circ} 12'$ W. The island which bore S.W. by W. must have been Cardiva, and those to the northward must have been the isles on the south part of Padypolo Atoll.

Abington
and Josiah
fall in with
the east side
of the Mal-
divas.

March 3d. Kept plying to windward, but were driven by the current to the westward among the islands, the southernmost at 6 P. M. bearing S. by W. 2 leagues, and the northernmost from N. by W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. to N. by E. there being ten isles in sight. The islands at this time, by the Josiah's journal, bore from S. by W. to N. E. by E. Variation $6^{\circ} 12'$ W.*

At 11 P. M. the southernmost island bore S. S. E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. distant 1 league. Found the current set W. by S. 2 miles per hour, which had driven us considerably to leeward among the islands during the night; at 6 A. M. the east point of the southernmost island (supposed Cardiva) bore S. E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. 5 miles, and the northern islands E. N. E., at which time sent our pinnace after two Maldiva boats, and she brought the master of one of them on board, who said there was a passage clear through to the westward.

and pass to
the west-
ward
through the
Cardiva
Channel.

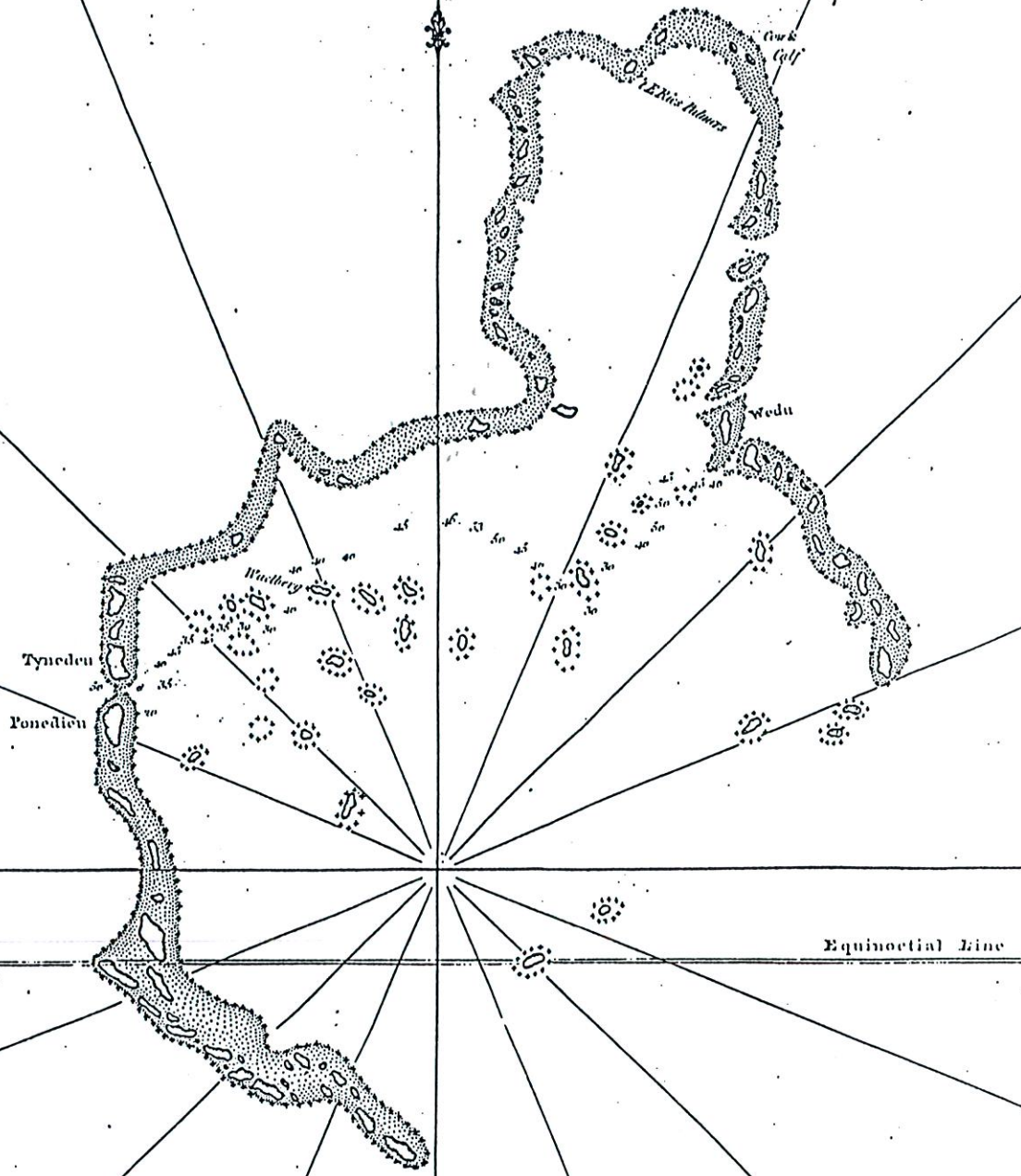
We therefore, bore away, and kept this man on board till noon, then sent him away in his boat, being nearly through the passage, having made a west course 30 miles from the preceding noon. You may steer S.W. by S. and S. S.W., which will carry a ship through, without any danger; but from the westernmost island, a ledge of rocks stretches 2 or 3 leagues to the southward, and as the current sets strong to the westward, you must give the island a good birth, to prevent being drifted toward the reef, which is steep to, without soundings.

At noon, observed lat. $5^{\circ} 17'$ N. by the Abington, but Mr. Templer, an officer of this ship, made it $5^{\circ} 2'$ N., and the Josiah's observation made the lat. $4^{\circ} 57'$ N. having twelve islands then in sight, with the westernmost island that forms the north side of the channel bearing W. S.W., and the northernmost islands N. N. E.

March 4th, at 1 P. M. hove to, and sent the boat to the westernmost island; she could neither land, nor get soundings close to the reef, but got some cocoa-nuts and plantains from one of the native boats. At 2 P. M. saw an island bearing S. by E. a great way to seaward, (supposed Todu) bore away between it and the westernmost island that forms the north side of the channel, from which I take a departure, and make it in lat. $4^{\circ} 58'$ N. by good observation. This channel lies in lat. $5^{\circ} 0'$ N. by our observations.

Said to lie in
lat. 5° N.

* In 1600, the variation here was 17° W. at present 1826, it is between 1° and 2° W.



ISLANDS near the MALDIVES

From John Vankeulen.



SUVADIVA ATOLL, MALDIVES,
 JOHN VAN KEULEN, ca. 1780,
 HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE 1813,
 ENGRAVING, L. Vilgon Lib.

Nautic Miles.

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At 4 P. M. the islands bore from N. E. by E. to S. by E., and the reef that projects from the westernmost island bore N. N. W. Variation at 6 P. M. $6^{\circ} 38'$ W.

The westernmost island here described, is situated in lat. $4^{\circ} 58'$, or $5^{\circ} 0'$ N. by the observations of Mr. Templer and those of the Josiah, nearly agreeing, (the Abington's observations being about 14 miles more to the north,) and is the outermost island of the small Atoll of Goidu, which together with its extensive reef projecting to the South and S. W., forms the northern boundary of the west end of the Cardiva Channel.

Directions
for sailing
through it.

The Island Cardiva, at the eastern entrance of this channel, appears by the observations of these ships to be in about lat. $5^{\circ} 0'$ N., and if a ship should be situated near this island, or between it and the south part of Padypolo Atoll, a course steered from thence S. W. by S. to S. S. W. about 8 leagues, will carry her through the channel, leaving Cardiva, Gafor, and Todu to the south; and Padypolo and Goidu to the north.

The Island Todu, situated in about lat. $4^{\circ} 42'$ N., is the southern boundary of the western entrance of the channel, and bears nearly S. by E. from the western extremity of Goidu Reef, which bounds the north side of the entrance. A ship, therefore, about to enter the channel with the wind at S. W. or southward, should keep in from lat. $4^{\circ} 42'$ to $4^{\circ} 48'$ N., to fall in with the Island Todu; but if the wind should be at N. Westward, she ought to keep in lat. $4^{\circ} 50'$ to $4^{\circ} 55'$ N. in order to fall in with the S. W. or outer edge of Goidu Reef, then edge away to the eastward along its southern extremity, and afterward steer to the N. Eastward to pass on the north side of the Island Cardiva; although the passage to the south of that island, between it and the Island Gafor, appears also very safe.

The course through the Cardiva Channel, will be about E. N. E. and W. S. W. if the passage on the south side of Cardiva Island is pursued, but the passage to the north of this island seems preferable, being much wider.

Caution
requisite.

As our knowledge of this channel is still very imperfect, the foregoing directions should be used with caution; because the latitude observed upward of a century ago, when nautical astronomy was in its infancy, was liable to considerable error, from various causes; yet, the preceding approximated latitude of the Cardiva Channel, is probably near the truth, being corroborated also, by the following observations of the Concord, which ship passed through it to the eastward.

Concord
mistakes the
Maldiva
Islands for
Ceylon:

Concord, from England bound to Madras, steering N. N. E. for the Island Ceylon, wind at N. W. by W., at 1 A. M. 8th September, 1709, saw land on the starboard bow: at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 A. M. bore away E. by N., thinking we were in a fair way to round Ceylon, but soon after, seeing land to the S. W. which we could not weather, tacked and made several boards till 9 A. M., then found we were on the west side of the Maldivas. Sent our boat to sound, which rowed toward several Maldiva boats seen among the islands, but they fled at her approach; saw also houses, and people on the shore.

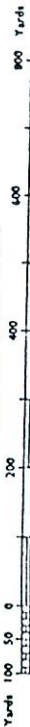
and passes
to the E. N.
Eastward
through the
Cardiva
Channel.

Perceiving from the mast head a large opening to the eastward, we resolved to proceed through, and found it to be a LARGE COMMODIOUS CHANNEL, had no ground at 40 fathoms all the way through. At noon, we were within the islands, the westernmost island in sight, bearing W. by N. distant 3 miles, by good observation lat. $5^{\circ} 0'$ N. having been set 35 miles to the southward of account in five days. These islands are very low, steep to, and covered with trees: I judge this to be the *Five Degrees' Channel*, we are in.

Sept. 9th. With fresh N. Westerly winds, steered from noon yesterday E. by N. $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles, E. N. E. $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles, N. E. by N. $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and E. N. E. $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles till 5 P. M., having previously at 2 P. M. discerned an island bearing E. N. E. distant about 5 leagues, some islands also in sight to the northward, but none to the eastward except that mentioned (supposed to be Cardiva.)* At 5 P. M. it bore south 2 miles distant, and a boat coming from the shore, lay by for her, but she would not venture alongside, and returned toward the shore.

* This is said to be the largest of any of the Maldiva Islands. For a farther description of the Cardiva Channel, see the following account of the Poulisdous Channel.

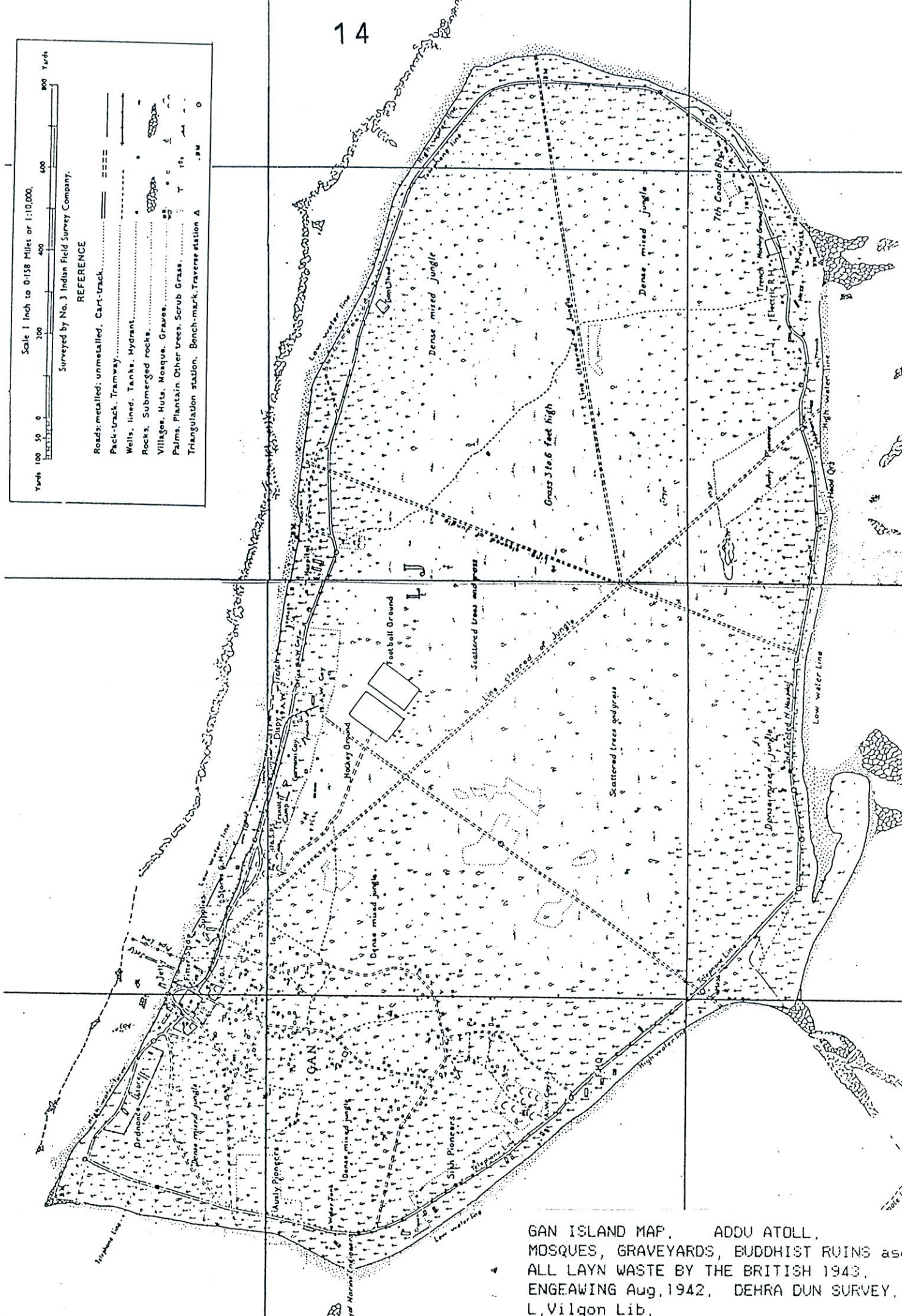
Scale 1 Inch to 0.158 Miles or 1:10,000.



Surveyed by No. 3 Indian Field Survey Company.

REFERENCE

- Roads: metalled; unmetalled, Cart-track.
- Pack-track, Tramway.
- Wells, lined, Tanks, Hydrant.
- Rocks, Submerged rocks.
- Villages, Huts, Mosque, Graves.
- Palms, Plants in Other trees, Scrub Grass.
- Triangulation station, Bench-mark, Traverse station



GAN ISLAND MAP. ADDU ATOLL. MOSQUES, GRAVEYARDS, BUDDHIST RUINS as ALL LAYN WASTE BY THE BRITISH 1943. ENGEAWING Aug. 1942. DEHRA DUN SURVEY. L. Vilgon Lib.

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At 6 P. M. made sail, seeing no more islands to the eastward, the easternmost then bearing S.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. distant 2 miles, which appears to be the largest island of any we have seen, having discerned about nineteen islands from the mast-head. From 6 P. M. steered E.N.E. till noon, course N. 62° E., distance 112 miles from the preceding noon.

GAFOR, OR GAFER ISLAND, in about lat. $4^{\circ} 46'$ N. is situated about 3 or 4 leagues south of the Island Cardiva, and it is said to lie at the eastern edge of a large circular reef, which reef has been generally marked as having anchorage at its western extremity; but there are no soundings close to the island. Gafor Island and Reef.

MALE ATOLL, gives name to the whole, as Maldiva, or King's Island, is situated at its south-east part, in about lat. $4^{\circ} 10'$ N. or $4^{\circ} 16'$ N. and about lon. $73^{\circ} 42'$ E. : this Atoll is 10 or 11 leagues in extent north and south, its northern limit approaching close to the Island Gafor, where there is a passage for ships about S. by E. from Gafor, through which the Recovery entered, and sailed over the Atoll to King's Island, as described above. Male Atoll: Geo. Site of King's Island.

The anchorage at King's Island, is within that island and a part of the reef, in sandy bottom, mixed with bits of coral, rendering chain cables of great utility to a vessel intending to touch at this place.

It is customary to moor with two or three anchors, and hawsers fast to the shore, to prevent a vessel from tending or sheering about, as the road is contracted, and seems not very safe for large ships, the anchorage being too near the shore. The boats belonging to the natives, lie inside of the rocks, in from 1 to 2 fathoms water, and the passages between these rocks are secured at night with booms.

King's Island is the only part of the Maldivas, to which vessels sometimes resort from Bengal, to trade for coir, cowries, &c. ; but this trade is now, nearly discontinued by Europeans, being carried on by the Maldivians in their own vessels, a sort of large boats, which generally arrive at Bengal in fleets, in the S.W. monsoon, with the produce of those islands, and return in December or January, with cargoes of rice, sugar, piece goods, &c.

There is said to be two gateways or navigable passages, at the N.W. part of this Atoll, two at the S.W. part, several on the east side, (where are many small isles,) exclusive of the principal entrance at King's Island, and that at the northern extremity.

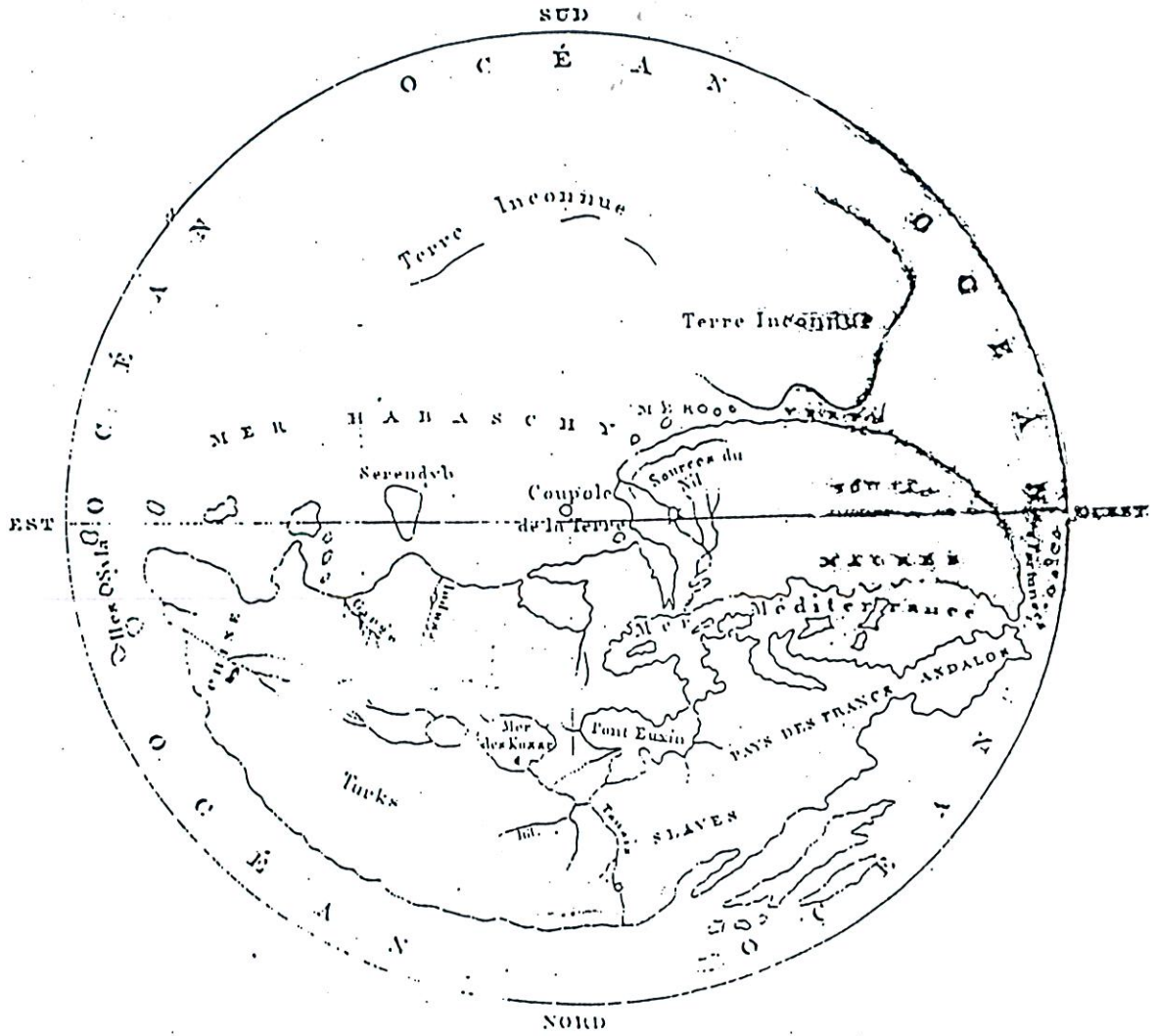
ARI ATOLL, lies to the S.W. and Westward of Male Atoll, at a considerable distance, and is said to extend from lat. 4° or $4^{\circ} 5'$ N. nearly to lat. $4^{\circ} 30'$ N., its western extremity being in about lon. 73° or $73^{\circ} 2'$ E. The Dutch ship Ravenstein, was wrecked on the north part of this Atoll about two centuries ago, occasioned by an error in the reckoning. Ari Atoll: Geo. Site.

Captain Antonio Klink, who commanded the Ravenstein, places the largest island of this Atoll, named Matuaria, upon its western side, in lat. $4^{\circ} 15'$ N., having about 3 or 4 miles to the northward, a gateway through the reef with no soundings, leading into the Atoll. He also marks an opening at the N. E. part of the Atoll, without soundings; and inside of the Atoll, several parts are said to be destitute of soundings, by this navigator's account. In the old charts, the west side of this Atoll is delineated as a continued reef, without any islands, whereas Matuaria the largest island of the Atoll, is situated with many others on this part of it. Dutch account.

The Snow Fancy, bound from Bombay to Port Jackson, fell in with the islands on the western edge of this Atoll, and the following extract relating to them, and to some of the islands of the southern Atolls, is taken from the journal of Captain William Denniston, then an officer in that vessel. Snow Fancy's description of the Isles on its western part:

April 25th, 1794, at day-light, saw one of the Maldiva Islands bearing S. E. by S. distant about 5 leagues, tacked to the N.W.

April 26th, steering S. by W. with the wind at W. by S., at 2 A. M. heard breakers on



MASUDI WORLD MAP FROM ca. 930,
 L. Vilgon Lib.

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the bow, and saw four Islands bearing from S. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. to S. S. E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. distant about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, tacked to the N.W., and at day-light saw six islands bearing from S. 48° E. to S. 2° E., distant about 3 leagues, and a *single* island bearing N. E. distant about 5 leagues, another in sight from the mast-head bearing S. $\frac{1}{4}$ W., eleven islands being visible from thence.

and Geo.
Site of west-
ern part.

By observations of the sun and moon, taken in this vessel, the single island seen bearing N. E. is in lat. $4^{\circ} 24'$ N. about lon. $73^{\circ} 15'$ E. Other islands, in lat. $4^{\circ} 16'$ N.; and the westernmost of the eleven islands of Ari Atoll, seen from the mast-head bearing from S. $\frac{1}{4}$ W. to S. 48° E. is situated in lat. $4^{\circ} 9'$ N. lon. $73^{\circ} 7'$ E.

She passed
southward
from thence,
and after-
ward
through the
south chan-
nel.

From the west part of Ari Atoll, the Fancy stood to the S. S. W. and Southward, with squally weather and rain from westward, and on the 26th of April, saw at noon, six of the islands on the west side of Suadiva Atoll in lat. $0^{\circ} 44'$ N. On the 30th she saw the south Atoll, Pona Molubque, and passed between it and Addon Island, on the 2d of May.

Poulisdous
Channel;

perhaps
dangerous,

POULISDOUS CHANNEL, OR FOUR DEGREES' CHANNEL, bounded to the north by Ari Atoll, and Male Atoll, and a detached reef to the south of the latter; and on the south side by Poulisdous Atoll, is described by La Val, to be narrow, with the sea swelling into great black surges, and boiling like water on a fire, rendering it very terrible. These are, however, probably only whirlpools, or strong eddies, produced by the tide or currents, striking against the steep coral reefs which contract the channel; and the black colour of the water in it, is perhaps the effect of its great depth, for when any of the water is drawn up in a bucket, it is no longer of a black aspect.

but not
known.

This channel, is thought to lie in lat. 4° N., probably rather under that parallel a few miles; but whether it be dangerous or not, for large ships, cannot at present be stated; therefore, it ought to be avoided until better known.

Capt. Davis
passed
through one
of these
channels,
having an-
chored pre-
viously.

The English Navigator, Captain Davis, describes a channel to lie in lat. $4^{\circ} 15'$ N. through which he sailed when pilot of a Dutch ship bound to India, but this latitude passes directly through among the islands of the Ari Atoll; he must, therefore, either have passed more to the southward, through the Poulisdous Channel, or farther to the northward, through the Cardiva Channel; and it may be inferred from his account, that the latter was the channel he passed through.

On the 23d of May, 1600, this navigator fell in with the Maldiva Islands, and anchored, where they remained till the 27th,* and as none of the Maldiva boats would come close to the ship, one of them was brought alongside by the ship's boats.

"May 27th, set sail, and happily struck into the true channel, called *Maldiva*,† which lies "in lat. $4^{\circ} 15'$ N. where the compass has 17° of West variation. There are vast numbers "of ships from all parts, that go through this channel, which is the only safe sailing, it being "generally fatal for a ship to miss it."

It was pro-
bably the
Cardiva
Channel.

The channel here described, must have been the Cardiva or 5° Channel, which is certainly the best of those among the northern Atolls, and was much frequented by European ships at the period here mentioned, but Captain Davis places it too far south; although he probably entered it close round the north end of Ari Atoll, in about lat. $4^{\circ} 30'$ N., and passed between it and Isle Todu, which seems safe, and perhaps is preferable to the entrance between Todu and Goidu Reef, with a Southerly or S.W. wind: at that period, navigators were often liable to err 15 or 20 miles in the observed latitude.

Poulisdous
Atoll,

POULISDOUS ATOLL, situated on the south side of the channel of this name, or the 4° Channel, is said to be of circular form, extending from about lat. $3^{\circ} 53'$ N. to $3^{\circ} 20'$ N. and directly south of Male Atoll. Although it is delineated on the *old* charts as a continued

* The latitude of this anchorage is not mentioned.

† This name seems to have been applied to the Cardiva Channel in early times.

SUD

PAYS INHABITÉS

à cause de la Chaleur.



IDRISI WORLD MAP FROM ca.1160.
L. Vilgon Lib.

NORD

great reef, destitute of islands, there nevertheless, are several islands upon it; and the Rochester appears to have passed directly over this Atoll, steering on a N. Westerly course, as will be shewn hereafter. seems to afford a passage over it.

MOLUCQUE ATOLL, lies to the South and S. S. Eastward of Poulisdous Atoll, and like it, is of circular form, thought to extend from about lat. $3^{\circ} 12' N.$ to about $2^{\circ} 45' N.$, having several islands upon it in various parts; with a reef called Natar, between it and the next Atoll to the westward. Molucque Atoll.

NILLANDOUS ATOLL, situated to the west of Molucque Atoll, has been hitherto represented as an oblong reef destitute of islands, separated in the middle by a narrow gut, and extending from lat. $3^{\circ} 33' N.$ to $2^{\circ} 52' N.$; but it will be seen from the following description, that similar to the other Atolls, this has also, islands upon it, and probably extends a little farther north than the latitude stated above as its northern limit. Nillandous Atoll.

Albemarle, from Bombay bound to England, on the 31st of October, 1707, at 10 A. M. saw the islands on the west side of Nillandous Atoll, bearing from N. E. to East, distant 5 or 6 leagues: from this time, were becalmed great part of the day, observed lat. $3^{\circ} 34'$ North, the islands then bearing from N. E. to East, which made the westernmost islands of the Atoll, in the same parallel. Albemarle's account of it.

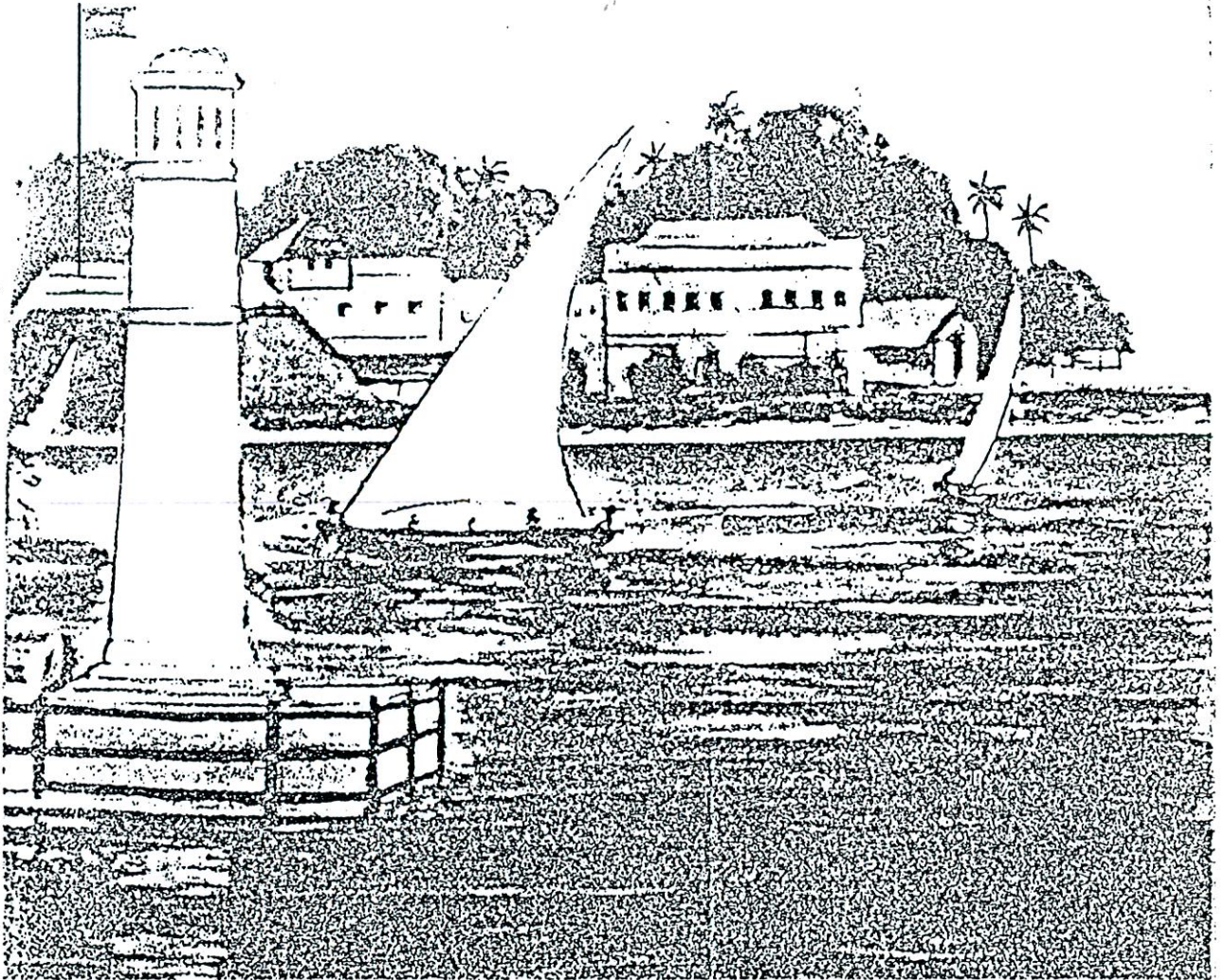
From this situation, the Albemarle steered to the S. S. Westward with light winds, without discerning any other islands until the 7th of November, when the N. Easternmost islands of Suadiva Atoll, were seen bearing from W. by N. to S. W. distant 5 or 6 leagues, the northernmost of which, she made in lat. $0^{\circ} 51' N.$ by noon observation. These were set down as the *imaginary* islands Diego Rays, thought to lie considerably west of the Maldivas, *which do not exist*. It is somewhat remarkable, that from the west side of Nillandous Atoll, although steering S. S. Westward, the Albemarle was carried by an easterly current through the $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ Channel, without knowing it, or without seeing any of the islands, until she got to the eastward of Suadiva Atoll, as stated above. From whence she was carried through the $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ channel by the current.

EXCLUSIVE OF THE CHANNELS BETWEEN THE ATOLLS, it has been already observed, that there are passages through among some of the islands which form these Atolls; a remarkable coincidence of this fact, will be seen by the following abstract of the Company's ship Rochester's journal, bound from Bencoolen to Madras; which ship appears to have crossed directly over two or three of the Atolls, steering to the N. W. and N. N. W. ward, and made a passage through among the islands, from their eastern limit to the westward, without getting any soundings. Passages over some of the Atolls:

Rochester, 14th Feb. 1715, wind E. N. E. steering north, saw at sun-rise, two of the Maldiva Islands on the lee bow; steered N. by W. 7 miles till 8 A. M. then saw eight more islands bearing from N. W. to West, distant 5 leagues; from 8 A. M. steered N. N. W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. 12 miles till noon, observed lat. $3^{\circ} 0' N.$, then 13 more islands bearing from S. S. W. to W. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. distant about 3 leagues. Saw three Maldiva boats among the islands. The north extremity of these thirteen islands* is in lat. $2^{\circ} 58' N.$ and their south extremity in lat. $2^{\circ} 51' N.$ by noon observation. Variation 6° West. exemplified by the Rochester's Journal.

Feb. 15th. From noon yesterday steered N. N. W. 3 miles, and at 2 P. M. saw to windward bearing N. N. E. an island with long ridges of rocks, tacked and stood E. S. E. 18 miles, then N. N. W. 2 miles, and at sun-rise saw four islands bearing W. N. W. distant about 6 leagues. At 5 P. M. one of the Maldiva boats thinking us a Moor ship, came near, sent our boats to her, and bought some rice and fish.

* These islands appear to have been on the N. E. extremity of Collomandous Atoll, or, perhaps, on the S. E. part of Molucque Atoll.



MALE PORT FROM NORTH, LIGHTHOUSE
and OLD FORT with MAIN FLAGSTAFF,
DRAWING 1945, L.Vilgon Lib.

Feb. 16th and 17th. Steered mostly to the east and northward, with light Northerly and N. E. winds, and a southerly current of 9 or 10 miles daily.

Feb. 18th. Steered N. N. W. and North, and at noon observed lat. $3^{\circ} 5' N.$ when the island that bore N. N. E. at 2 P. M. 15th, now bore W. $\frac{1}{2} N.$ distant 5 leagues.

Feb. 19th. With a light breeze at N. E. by E., steered N. by W. 16 miles, till sun-set, the island seen at noon yesterday now bore south about 5 leagues, and five other islands bore from W. S. W. to W. N. W. $\frac{1}{2} N.$: from sun-set steered N. by E. 24 miles till 4 A. M., wind at E. by N., then tacked and steered S. E. $\frac{1}{2} E.$ 4 miles, and at sun-rise had seventeen islands bearing from S. W. to N. N. E. $\frac{1}{2} E.$ distant about 4 leagues. Steered S. S. E. 4 miles till 8 A. M. an island bearing S. by E. about 6 leagues, tacked and steered N. by E. $\frac{1}{2} E.$ 9 miles till noon, observed lat. $3^{\circ} 25' N.$, at which time saw thirteen islands more, the northernmost bearing N. $\frac{1}{2} E.$ distant about 4 leagues, which will make their northern extreme in lat. $3^{\circ} 37' N.$, and the island that bore S. by E. at 8 A. M. will be in lat. $2^{\circ} 58' N.$, and the seventeen islands which bore from S. W. to N. N. E. $\frac{1}{2} E.$ at sun-rise, will extend from lat. $3^{\circ} 10' N.$ to $3^{\circ} 32' N.$ by noon observation, and their estimated distance.

Feb. 20th. Steered from noon yesterday N. N. E. 4 miles, S. E. $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and saw at sun-set, several islands, bearing from N. by E. to S. by E. $\frac{1}{2} E.$ distant from the nearest about 3 leagues. We could perceive the islands connected by shoals, as far as that which bore N. N. W. ; the wind being at eastward, got ready to anchor, and sent the boat a-head to sound, the ship laying up N. E. fell into a GOOD CHANNEL, just to leeward of the northernmost island, for we could get no ground all night with the deep sea line. From sun-set steered N. N. E. 4 miles, then tacked at 8 P. M., steered S. by E. 1 mile till 9 P. M., tacked and steered N. E. 6 miles, N. N. E. $\frac{1}{2} E.$ 7 miles, N. by E. 12 miles till 8 A. M., then saw twenty-one islands bearing from N. E. $\frac{1}{2} E.$ to S. E. by E. distant about 5 leagues. From this time, steered N. $\frac{1}{4} W.$ 8 miles till noon, observed lat. $3^{\circ} 52' N.$, when two islands were seen to leeward, one bearing W. by S., and the other W. by N., the latter being the westernmost island in this latitude. A Maldiva boat came on board, on our shewing French colours, from which we got some fowls, and a few cowries. The channel through which we passed between the islands* after sun-set, appears to be in about lat. $3^{\circ} 35' N.$ by noon observation yesterday, and the computed run ; and by this day's observation, the two westernmost islands seen bearing W. by S. and W. by N., one will be in lat. $3^{\circ} 53' N.$ and the other in lat. $3^{\circ} 59' N.$

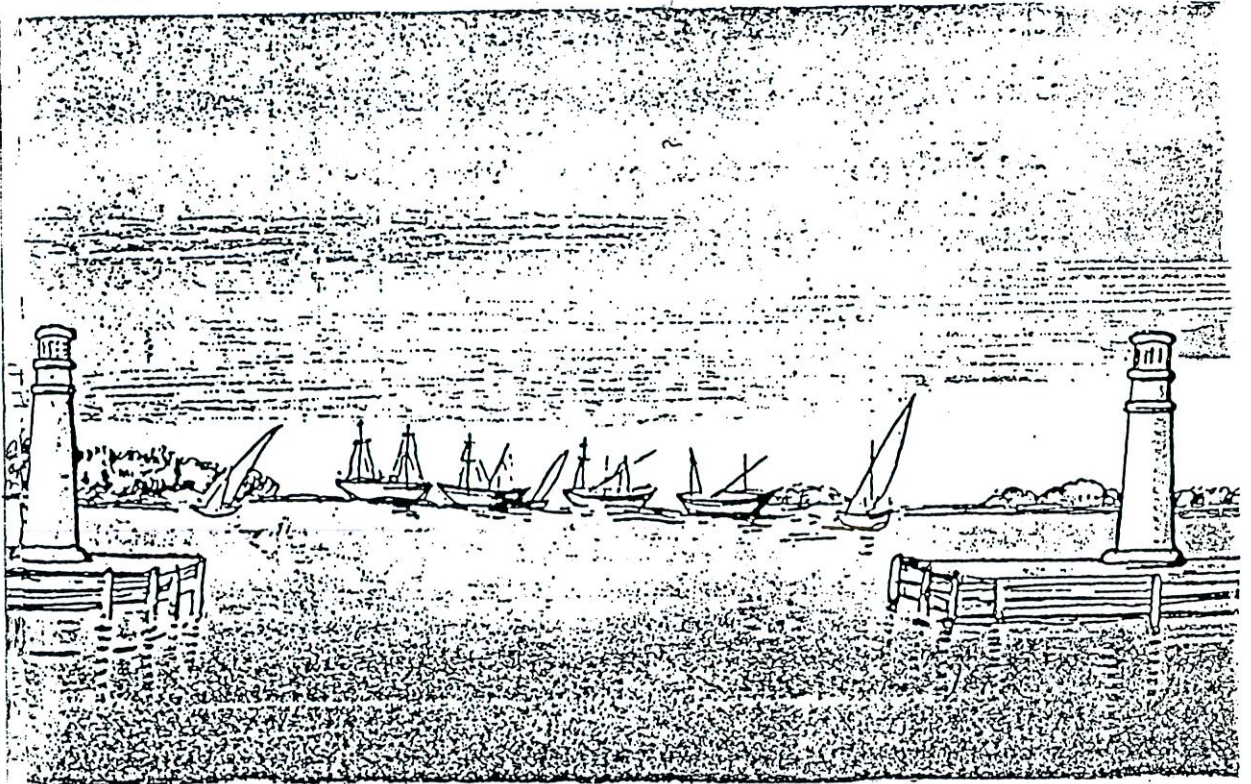
Feb. 21st. Steered N. by W. 14 miles till sun-set, the westernmost island (we call Todaw) then bore S. by E. distant 3 leagues. Gentle breezes and smooth water : since we are forced by the current to the westward of these islands, we design to stand to the northward into lat. 8° or $9^{\circ} N.$ where we hope to get westerly winds, to carry us to the eastward. From sun-set, steered north 14 miles till 12 P. M., then N. W. by N. 12 miles, and N. by W. 7 miles till sun-rise, no land in sight.

By this abstract of the Rochester's journal, she *appears* to have crossed over part of Molucque Atoll, and also over part of Poulisdous Atoll ; but it seems strange, she did not see Ari Atoll, which she must have passed near to, on the south side. The detached island seen farthest to the westward, called Todaw by the Rochester, does not correspond with any chart of the Maldivas, as there are no separate island or islands placed in the latitude she assigned to it ; which shows, that the islands are very incorrectly delineated in this part.

Collo-
mandour Atoll,

COLLOMANDOUS ATOLL, is large, of circular form, and its northern extremity is thought to be separated from Nillandous, and Molucque Atolls, by a narrow channel, probably not safe for large ships.

* Probably those on the south part of Poulisdous Atoll.



MALE PORT FROM SOUTH, BREAKWATERS with
LIGHTHOUSES, FUNADHOO and HULHULE ISLANDS,
DRAWING 1945, L.Vilgon Lib,

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This Atoll, was examined close on the west side, by H. M. S. Sir Francis Drake, on the 27th of July, 1808, and found to consist of small islands covered with cocoa-nut trees, united together by necks of dry sand; these islands are all low, well wooded, and many of them inhabited. She endeavoured to pass to the eastward, between this Atoll and that of Adoumatis, in the night of the 27th of July, and ran upon the steep reef which forms the northern boundary of the latter, but fortunately the sea being smooth, she was quickly hove off the reef, by an anchor laid out in 60 fathoms water, within the distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ a cable's length of the ship. When clear of the reef, she steered to the N. Eastward through the channel. lately explored on the west and south sides.

COLLOMANDOUS CHANNEL, OR SIR FRANCIS DRAKE'S CHANNEL, is described by Lieut. Henderson, of that ship, to be perfectly free from hidden danger, about 7 or 8 miles wide, and as many leagues in length: the flood was found to set through the channel N. E., and the ebb S.W: about $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile per hour. Collomandous channel.

The N.W. extremity of Collomandous Atoll, by the observations of the above named officer, is situated in lat. $2^{\circ} 30' N.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 8' E.$, and the islands which bound the north side of the channel, were found to lie, the S. Westernmost, or Long Island, in lat. $2^{\circ} 21' N.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 8' E.$ and South Island in lat. $2^{\circ} 13' S.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 21' E.$ by chronometer. From South Island, the southern edge of the Atoll takes a direction N. E. by E. about 7 leagues to its eastern extremity; and the western entrance of the channel is in lat. $2^{\circ} 10' N.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 21' E.$, for the South Island of the Atoll may be considered as the north boundary of the entrance, which extends farther to the westward than any part of Adoumatis Atoll, the southern boundary of the channel. Geo. Site of the above named Atoll. and of the west entrance of the channel.

This channel, seems (from the above description of this excellent observer, and intelligent officer, Lieut. Henderson) to be very safe, with a steady wind in day-light, as its true situation is now well known, but it ought not to be adopted in the night, neither should the passage through it be pursued at any time, unless in a case of necessity; because the $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ channel, or Great Channel, a little farther to the southward, shortly to be described, is far preferable.

The ship Daphne, Capt. Chatfield, intending to go through the $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ Channel, in her passage from Europe to India, in 1822, was carried to the northward of it by a current, and at day-light, 27th August, found they were close to the islands at the western entrance of the Collomandous Channel, through which they proceeded, and found it safe in day-light; there appeared no danger, except the coral reef on which the Sir Francis Drake grounded, and the Daphne was guided entirely by the land in steering through the channel.

ADOUMATIS ATOLL, situated to the S. Eastward of Collomandous Atoll, is much smaller than the latter, being of an oblong form, extending nearly N. E. and S.W. about 9 leagues, and it is about 5 or 6 leagues in breadth east and west. The islands and reef on its northern edge, form the south boundary of the Collomandous Channel, the N.W. island being situated in lat. $2^{\circ} 7' N.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 35' E.$ and the N. E. island in lat. $2^{\circ} 9' N.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 46' E.$ by Lieut. Henderson's observations and chronometer. The islands which border this Atoll appear to be all of small size, and crowned with cocoa-nut trees, like those of the other Atolls. Adoumatis Atoll. Geo. Site.

ADOUMATIS CHANNEL, OR ONE AND A HALF DEGREE CHANNEL,* bounded on the north by Adoumatis Atoll, and by Suadiva Atoll on the south side, is 17 leagues wide, and perfectly free from danger; being the safest, and most spacious of any of Adoumatis Channel, is wide and very safe.

* La Val describes this channel to be very wide, and that the Maldiva boats were always obliged to use a compass in crossing it, which they had no occasion for, in crossing over any of the other channels; but he states, this Great Channel (erroneously) to lie directly under the equator, instead of in $1\frac{1}{2}$ degree of north latitude, its real situation.



MALE PORT VIEW to the EAST,
WAREHOUSES, BREAKWATER and HULHULE,
DRAWING 1945, L.Vilgon Lib.

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the channels which separate the Maldiva Atolls. This channel, is said to have been frequented by French and Danish navigators, in their voyages between the Island Mauritius and Tranquebar; but it seems hitherto, to have been little known to English navigators, although one or two of the commanders of the Company's Ships, appear to have been acquainted with it, as will be seen from the following extracts.

Devonshire
passed
through it in
1766.

Devonshire, Capt. W. Mercer, from England bound to Madras, left Johanna on the 21st of September, 1766, and after getting into lat. $1^{\circ} 30' N.$, meridian distance $19^{\circ} 35' E.$ of Comoro, she steered to the eastward, and appears to have passed through the Adoumatis Channel on the 15th or 16th of October, without seeing any of the islands; but two Dutch ships were seen steering to the northward on the 16th. In the journal of Mr. Peter Fea, 2d officer, is the following remark. "Steered to the eastward, to pass through among the Maldiva Islands, there being a channel that extends from lat. $1^{\circ} 24' N.$ to $2^{\circ} N.$ " From this channel, with Westerly and N.W. winds, the Devonshire steered eastward, keeping between the parallels of lat. $1^{\circ} 30' N.$ and $2^{\circ} N.$ till the 2d of November; two days afterward, she saw Hog Island and the Cocos, and arrived at Madras on the 23d of that month.

Earl Corn-
wallis,

Earl Cornwallis, Capt. Burnet Abercrombie, bound to Madras, passed in sight of the Island Bourbon, about 10 leagues to the eastward, on the 1st of September, 1784, steered from thence N. N. Eastward, with the winds mostly between E. S. E. and E. by N., and passed to the eastward of the Island Agalega, and the Seychelle Islands, without seeing any of them. Knowing that the Devonshire had passed through the Adoumatis Channel, Capt. Abercrombie resolved to pursue the same route, and the wind veered to the West and W. N.W. on the 23d of September, when in lat. $1^{\circ} 50' N.$ lon. $68\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ East by chronometer and lunar observations. From hence, with westerly winds, they steered eastward, keeping in lat. $1^{\circ} 30' N.$, and passed through the channel on the 27th of September, being at 6 P.M. in lat. $1^{\circ} 28' N.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 35' E.$ by chronometer, corresponding with observations of $\odot \llcorner$ taken three days previously, and none of the islands were seen in passing.

passed
through it in
1784.

and got
speedily to
Madras.

With steady winds mostly between W. S.W. and W. N.W., she steered from the Adoumatis Channel N. N. Eastward direct for Ceylon, passed the Great Basses on the 2d of October, coasted along the east side of Ceylon, and with a continuance of westerly winds, she arrived on the 8th at Madras, or eleven days after passing through the Adoumatis Channel. The Devonshire, was nineteen days later in the season, when she passed through the channel, and by steering over to the east side of the bay until Hog Island was approached, her passage was thereby prolonged to thirty-seven days from the Adoumatis Channel till her arrival at Madras.

Thetis,

Thetis, Captain William Richardson, carried French prisoners from Calcutta to the Island Mauritius, where he was informed that the vessels which trade from thence to Tranquebar, frequented a safe channel between the Maldiva Islands in lat. $1^{\circ} 30' N.$; and on his returning passage, meeting with N.W. winds in lat. $1^{\circ} 49' N.$, he resolved to proceed through it. Having steered E. S. Eastward from the above latitude, and afterward E. by S. $\frac{1}{2}$ S., on the 1st of September, 1805, at sun-rise saw from the mast-head a group of small islands bearing from N. N. E. to E. N. E.; steered E. S. E. 16 miles to 9 A.M. part of the islands then in sight from the deck, bearing from N. by E. to N. by W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W., the largest *apparently*, bearing north distant 4 or 5 leagues. At this time the ship was in lat. $1^{\circ} 36' N.$ by noon observation, taken 3 hours after, lon. $73^{\circ} 33' E.$ by chronometer, measured from lunar observations, taken daily during the three preceding days, corresponding exactly with the mean of chronometers, and several observations of $\odot \llcorner$ taken at 3 P.M. on the 2d of September, shortly after passing the islands. These islands appeared small and low, situated near each other, and the *trees only* were discernible. From 9 A.M. the Thetis steered E. by S. 9 miles till noon, observed lat. $1^{\circ} 34' N.$, and no other islands were seen afterward.

passed
through the
Adoumatis
Channel in
1805, and got
good obser-
vations.

These islands, seen by Captain Richardson, are on the south extremity of Adoumatis Atoll, and form the northern boundary of the Adoumatis Channel, or $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ Channel, and as



SULTAN MUHAMMAD SOAMS-UD-DIN, III,
PHOTO mid 1920s. L.Vilgon Lib.

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he is known to be an *attentive* and *correct* observer, their situations are probably ascertained near the truth, viz.

	Lat.	Lon.		Geo. Site of Islands bounding the north side of the channel.
S.W. extremity of Adoumatis Atoll	1° 50' N.	73° 27' E.	} By lunar observations and chronometers agreeing.	
Southernmost Island	1 49	73 33		
Another Island	1 51	73 38		

Licutenant J. Henderson of the Sir Francis Drake, states that the southern limit of this Atoll, appeared to extend from lon. 73° 30' to 73° 45' E.

H. M. S. *Seaflower*, Captain W. Owen, passed through this channel in September, 1806, close along the islands which form its southern boundary, and ascertained their situations as follows.

	Lat.	Lon.		Geo. Site of Islands bounding the south side of the channel, or Suadiva North Group.
S.W. Island of north group, Suadiva Atoll	0° 48' N.	73° 19' E.	} By lunar observations.	
N.W. Island of ditto	0 51	73 20½		
N. Easternmost Island seen	0 58	73 33		

As the foregoing channel contains a clear space from lat. 0° 58' N. to lat. 1° 49' N. being 51 miles wide on a meridian line, it may be considered very safe, and preferable to any of the northern channels, which are at present not so well known. Ships coming from the S.W. toward Ceylon or the Coromandel Coast in the S.W. monsoon, or from March to November, ought certainly to prefer this channel to the circuitous route by the Eight or Nine Degrees' Channels, being equally safe, with the probable advantage of having a smoother sea, and more favorable weather, than is frequently experienced in those channels to the north of the Maldivas.

Ships running to the eastward in November, December, and January, may also proceed through the Adoumatis Channel, or through the Equatorial Channel, or to the southward of all the islands, as prevailing circumstances render expedient, where variable winds mostly from the westward, with an easterly current, may generally be expected in these months, near the equator; for N.W. and Westerly winds prevail greatly in the Adoumatis Channel throughout the whole year. The parallel of 1° 30' to 1° 36' N. seems to be a good track to pass through this channel to the eastward, when the wind is N. Westerly; but with a southerly wind, a ship ought to borrow toward the Suadiva Isles, on the south side of the channel.

The following extract of a letter from Captain William Moffat, of the *Winchelsea*, will shew his favorable opinion of this channel.

"Proceeding from Johanna, with the ships* under my direction bound to Madras, I resolved to pass through the Adoumatis Channel, (knowing your favorable opinion of it) which we accomplished very safely on the 27th of June, 1814. The weather being thick, with incessant rain, prevented our seeing the land, and consequently of the means of affording you any satisfactory remarks. On the 27th of June, at 2 P. M. we hove to, in order to keep the fleet together, judging ourselves then in a fair track, and very near the islands; and probably in the night, by the current running to the eastward, we had been drifted well into the channel, which is corroborated by a Maldiva boat having passed near to the *Astell* and *Asia*.

I believe this channel to be perfectly safe, and notwithstanding the unfavorable circumstances under which we passed through, I am of opinion it is far preferable to the circuitous route by the Eight or Nine Degrees' Channel, and that there is a great probability of meeting with smoother water, and fine weather, by adopting it.

This may be inferred, from what I experienced in the *Phoenix*, when bound from Bombay

* *Winchelsea*, *Castle Huntley*, *Marquis of Huntley*, *Asia*, *Astell*, and *Europe*. Many ships have passed through the Adoumatis Channel since that period, 1814.

Geo. Site of Islands bounding the north side of the channel.

Seaflower passed through it in 1806.

Geo. Site of Islands bounding the south side of the channel, or Suadiva North Group.

This channel is very safe, and preferable to the northern channels.

Winchelsea and fleet, passed through the Adoumatis Channel in 1814.



PRINCE HASSAN IZZ-UD-DIN,
PHOTO ca 1920. L.Vilgon Lib.

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to the Red Sea, with a disabled ship in company, circumstances having brought me very near this channel about the latter end of June, 1801. We came down outside of the Laccadiva, and Maldiva Islands, and had very bad weather at times, which gradually improved as we drew to the southward, and became very fine with a smooth sea, when we were near the southern Atolls.

The Adoumatis, or One and a Half Degree Channel, I have no doubt will (when better known) be generally adopted by navigators."

Albemarle
passed
through it
in 1707.

It has been already mentioned under the head *Nillandous Atoll*, that the Albemarle, in November, 1707, was drifted by the current through the Adoumatis Channel to the eastward, which circumstance remained unknown to the commander and officers of that ship.

Suadiva
Atoll,

has a low
sand bank
on the west-
ern side,
seen by Capt.
Owen.

SUADIVA ATOLL, extending about N. N. E. and S. S. W. 16 or 17 leagues, of an oval form, with its greatest breadth to the southward, on the south and east sides, seems to be formed by a chain of small islands, fronted by a coral reef to seaward; but on the western side, the chain of islands is broken by a narrow isthmus of sand, seen a little above water, extending about 4 or 5 leagues in a S. S. W. and N. N. Easterly direction. Captain W. Owen, in H. M. S. *Seaflower*, while tracing the west side of this Atoll in September, 1806, endeavoured to pass through this *apparent* opening, but when within 3 miles of it, the low neck of sand was discerned, which seems to separate the Suadiva Atoll into *two groups*, or *divisions* on the western side.

From the S. W. island of the north group, as stated above to be in lat. $0^{\circ} 48' N.$, this neck of sand extended to the north island of the southern group, in lat. $0^{\circ} 34' N.$, in which there appeared only one very small opening, close to the former island.

Geo. Site of
western side
by Snow
Fancy.

Snow Fancy, on the 26th of April, 1794, at noon observed in lat. $0^{\circ} 44' N.$, when eight islands on the west side of Suadiva Atoll, bore from E. by N. to E. by S. $\frac{1}{2} S.$, distant about $5\frac{1}{2}$ leagues, which made the westernmost island in lat. $0^{\circ} 43' N.$ about lon. $73^{\circ} 10' E.$ by account, from an observation of $\odot \alpha$ taken on the preceding day.

These islands, by the Fancy's observations, are placed in the lat. where Captain Owen discovered the low neck of sand, destitute of islands; and as he is an officer of great ability as a marine surveyor, his observations are probably more correct than those taken in the Fancy.

Captain Owen, in H. M. S. *Baracouta*, with several transports under his direction, passed to the eastward, close along the southern verge of this Atoll, 24th November, 1811; and his observations by moon and chronometer, give the following limits of the Suadiva Atoll to the south and westward.

Geo. Site of
the west,
south, and
eastern
sides, by
Capt. Owen,
and others.

Southern group, northernmost island, lat. $0^{\circ} 34' N.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 8' E.$ N. W. island in lat. $0^{\circ} 28' N.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 2' E.$ S. W. island lat. $0^{\circ} 18' N.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 4' E.$ South island lat. $0^{\circ} 11' N.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 12' E.$ South extremity of the reef, lat. $0^{\circ} 9' N.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 15' E.$ The N. Easternmost island seen, lat. $0^{\circ} 28' N.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 38' E.$ The Fancy made the S. W. extremity of this Atoll in lat. $0^{\circ} 11' N.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 0' E.$ The *Southampton*, in 1782, made it in lat. $0^{\circ} 12' N.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 12' E.$ by * α *. Monsieur Bonvouloir, in 1795, made the south extreme of the Atoll in lat. $0^{\circ} 13' N.$, and coasted along within $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 miles of the numerous rocks and islands which form its south and its eastern side, to the N. E. extremity, which he made in lat. $0^{\circ} 52' N.$ The Albemarle, in 1707, made the same part in lat. $0^{\circ} 51' N.$ and the Europe made it in lat. $0^{\circ} 51\frac{1}{2}' N.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 30' E.$ by account from Bombay, having fallen in with the N. E. part of the Atoll bearing from W. $\frac{1}{2} N.$ to S. W. $\frac{1}{2} W.$, distant 3 leagues, but the true lon. of the eastern extremity of this Atoll, although not positively ascertained, appears to be about $73^{\circ} 40' E.$

Suadiva, or
Equatorial
Channel.

SUADIVA, SOUADOU, OR EQUATORIAL CHANNEL, formed on the north side by the southern extremity of the Suadiva Atoll, described above, and on the south side



SULTAN NUR-UD-DIN,
PHOTO ca 1940. L.Vilgon Lib.

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by the Island Addon, is about 10 leagues wide and clear of danger, the south extremity of the above Atoll being in lat. $0^{\circ} 9'$ or $0^{\circ} 10'$ N., and bears about N. N. W. from Addon Island, the north part of which island is in lat. $0^{\circ} 19'$ S. Safe for ships.

Contractor, from England, bound to Madras, passed through this channel 28th of July, 1792, having first passed between Pona Molubque Atoll, and Addon Island; she had the wind at S. E. with a lee current, and not being able to weather the latter island, she passed to leeward of it with the boat a-head, then hauled to the eastward, and did not see the southern part of Suadiva Atoll. Contractor passed through it,

Monsieur Bonvouloir, in the ship Fatty Rair, passed to the eastward through this channel 27th of May, 1795, with westerly winds: he first saw Pona Molubque Atoll bearing to the S. E., which together with Addon, he passed at 4 or 5 leagues distance to the westward, then steered to the northward till he approached the south part of Suadiva Atoll, which he coasted round to its N. E. extremity as mentioned above. and the Fatty Rair.

H. M. S. Baracouta, Captain W. Owen, in charge of several transports from Java, carried them to the eastward through this channel, on the 24th of November, 1811, and had strong westerly winds with easterly currents in passing through it, and also several days previously. Also the Baracouta and other ships.

Westerly winds prevail greatly here, except in part of June, July, and August, the S. E. trade wind blows sometimes close up to the equator, when the route through the One and a Half Degree Channel should be preferred, by ships bound to the eastward, in order to avoid the verge of the S. E. trade wind. But at all other times, it appears, that a passage to the eastward may be effected with facility through the Equatorial Channel, as several ships have lately sailed through it, and found it very safe. Winds.

With the wind inclining from the northward, a ship intending to proceed to the eastward through this channel, ought to keep nearly on the equator, or rather toward the northern side; but with a southerly wind, it will be proper to give a wide berth to the south part of Suadiva Atoll, by keeping in about lat. $0^{\circ} 12'$ S. to $0^{\circ} 16'$ S. and pass near to the north end of the Island Addon. Sailing directions.

ADDON ISLAND, situated by itself, and bounding the south side of the Equatorial Channel, is like many of the other islands, inhabited, and covered with trees. The north extremity of this island is in lat. $0^{\circ} 19'$ S. from whence it extends about 2 leagues to the southward, including the coral reef with high breakers, which projects about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in a S. S. E. direction from the south end of the island. This reef ought not to be approached close, as the rocks on its edge, slope out under water in some places to a considerable distance beyond the breakers; but on the other sides of the island, the shore appears to be steep to, with no soundings near it. Addon Island.]

As many ships have seen this island within these few years, since the Equatorial Channel, and the south channel of the Maldivas, became better known to Europeans than formerly, its situation seems to be ascertained very near the truth, the body of it being in lat. $0^{\circ} 21'$ S. lon. $73^{\circ} 35'$ E. by mean of the chronometers and lunar observations of six ships, taken at different times, but corresponding with each other within a few miles. Geo. Site.

In coming from the southward, this island appears in separate hummocks when first seen, but are soon perceived to join, when it is approached.

ADDON CHANNEL, OR SOUTH CHANNEL, is formed by the Island Addon to the N. E., and to the S. W. by Pona Molubque Atoll, from the N. Eastern extremity of which, Addon Island bears N. E., distant about $6\frac{1}{2}$ leagues; the channel between them is about this breadth, clear of danger, if a berth be given to the reef that projects from the south end of the island. Addon Channel; clear of danger.

Several ships bound to the eastward, have passed through this channel of late years, among which was the Company's ship Contractor, on the 28th of July, 1792; by her journal, I first



AMIN DIDI,
PHOTO ca 1950. L.Vilgon Lib.

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discovered the geographical situation of the islands which form it, and that it was safe for ships.

Contractor
in 1792,
passed on
the west
side of Cha-
gos Islands.

The Contractor, from England, bound to Madras, passed to the westward of Diego Garcia on the 22d of July, 1792, but thought themselves to the eastward of that island, until at 7 A. M. five islands were seen to the N. N. E., and at noon another island was discerned bearing east, then in lat. $6^{\circ} 26'$ S., and shortly after, others were seen to the N. Eastward. These were the Chagos Islands, all of which they passed on the west side, with the wind variable in squalls between East and N. E., and showers of rain.

Afterward
saw the south
Atoll of the
Maldivas,

From this time, the winds kept veering between N. E. and S. E., in generally light breezes, until the 27th, at day-light, when the south Atoll of the Maldivas (Pona Molubque) was discerned bearing from W. 15° S. to W. 35° S., consisting of 10 or 12 considerable islands, and several smaller ones, covered with cocoa-nut trees, and all lined with a white sandy beach, besides innumerable rocks amongst them, the northernmost part then distant 3 or $3\frac{1}{2}$ leagues. Directly after, a long low island (Addon) was seen from the mast-head, bearing N. 35° E., distant about 5 leagues: steered close hauled, about N. N. E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. 10 miles till 8 A. M., with the wind easterly in squalls, extremes of the south Atoll then bore from S. 45° W. to S. 65° W., nearly out of sight, and Addon Island bore from North to N. 15° E., distant about 6 or 7 miles. From this station, it appeared nearly level, but its southern part seemed as if divided into three smaller islands, which on a nearer view, was found to be a continuation of the same island, about 2 or 3 leagues in extent, and a reef with high breakers projects from its southern extreme about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

and Addon
Island.

Observa-
tions.

From 8 A. M. steered N. E. by N., but the current running to W. N. W., we could not weather the reef, tacked, and steered S. by E. 6 miles till noon, observed lat. $0^{\circ} 31'$ S. lon. $73^{\circ} 30'$ E. by $\odot \text{ } \ominus$ measured by chronometer from the preceding day, the South Atoll bearing from S. W. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. to S. W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W., distant 7 or 8 miles, and Addon Island from N. E. by N. to N. E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E.

Addon Reef.

July 28th, stood to the southward 3 miles, then tacked, and stood to the N. E. 20 miles till 6 P. M. to endeavour to weather Addon Island, bearing from N. N. E. to N. by W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W., off shore 2 or 3 miles, and nearly abreast of the reef, when perceiving the white coral rocks under the ship, tacked, and had only 6 fathoms water in stays. This steep coral spit has no soundings close to, and seems to be a continuation of Addon Reef.

Passed on
the West and
N. W. sides
of Addon.

During the night, kept working between the south Atoll and Addon, making each alternately, expecting in the morning to be able to weather the latter, which the W. N. W. current rendered impracticable. Not knowing there was a safe passage on the N. W. side of Addon, and finding we could not weather it, at 8 A. M. when within 2 miles of it, bearing from N. by E. to N. N. W., sent the boat a-head, following her along the west side of the island, and were agreeably surprised, to find a clear sea to the northward and westward. Several of the natives were seen, and no ground was got with 30 to 60 fathoms of line, in passing along the West and N. W. parts of the island at 2 miles distance. At 11 A. M. Addon bore from South to S. S. E., distant 3 miles, steered E. N. E. $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles to noon, observed lat. $0^{\circ} 14'$ S.

Observa-
tions.

July 29th, at 1 P. M. the Island Addon bore from S. S. W. to S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S., distant 12 or 13 miles, steered from hence E. N. E. 14 miles close hauled, with the wind at S. E. and at 4 P. M. by observations of $\odot \text{ } \ominus$, made the lon. $73^{\circ} 40'$ E. Experienced a current of 21 miles to the north, and 15 miles to the westward, during the following 24 hours.

Fancy
passed on
the west side
of the Mal-
divas, saw
several of
the Islands,

went
through the
South
Channel.

Fancy Snow, from Bombay, bound to Port Jackson, fell in with the islands on the west side of Ari Atoll, on the 25th of April, 1795; on the 29th, she saw the islands on the western part of Suadiva Atoll; on the 30th, saw Addon Island, and Pona Molubque Atoll, and with N. W. winds made several tacks, but the current setting to the eastward, she was driven into the South Channel, which she passed through, on the 1st of May. The lat. observed this day at noon, was $0^{\circ} 16'$ S. by one quadrant, and $0^{\circ} 20'$ S. by another, when Addon Island bore from E. 9° N. to E. 14° S., distant 5 miles.



MUHAMMAD SHAMS-UD-DIN III, and his son
HASSAN IZZ-UD-DIN to the right,
PHOTO mid 1920s. L.Vilgon Lib.

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The William Pitt, and Duncan, lately passed through this channel, as will be seen under the following description of the South Atoll.

PONA MOLUBQUE ATOLL, OR SOUTHERNMOST GROUP of the Maldivas, which terminates this remarkable chain of coral banks, and half drowned islands, consists of 14 small islands, and rocks, forming a bay in the shape of a horse-shoe, open to the N. N. W., which although barred by a reef, gives the Atoll the appearance of two separate groups when first viewed from the westward. This Atoll is well inhabited, and the islands being covered with tall cocoa-nut trees, are discerned at 5 or $5\frac{1}{2}$ leagues distance; none of the reefs appear to project out above $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 miles, and they are thought to be very steep, without soundings, until close upon them. As this Atoll has been seen by many ships, at different times, its situation seems well ascertained, which by the mean of their chronometers, and lunar observations, the N. W. extreme of the Atoll is in lat. $0^{\circ} 34' S.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 12' E.$, the N. E. extreme in lat. $0^{\circ} 33' S.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 25' E.$ Southern extreme in lat. $0^{\circ} 41' S.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 20' E.$

Pona Molubque Atoll.

Geo. Site.

Southampton passed round on the west and south side.

Le Bien-Venue, also passed on the same side.

William Pitt

passed on the North side of it, and through the South Channel.

Southampton, December 27th, steering to the southward with W. S. W. winds and a S. Easterly current, at sun-set, saw the N. E. islands of the south Atoll of the Maldivas bearing E. S. E. 3 or 4 leagues, and its western extreme S. $\frac{3}{4}$ W., distant about 2 leagues, with the white sand of the beach in sight. There was no appearance of foul ground or dangers, excepting a reef projecting a little from the S. W. extremity of the Atoll: these islands appeared to be elevated about 20 feet above the sea, exclusive of the height of the trees. When we rounded the southernmost island, steered E. S. E. and East, and experienced a current of 19 miles to the south, and 35 miles to the eastward, during the 24 hours.

Le Bien-Venue, commanded by Monsieur Roncais Violette, steering to the eastward with westerly winds near the equator, 7th of April, 1773, descried the southernmost Atoll of the Maldivas, the islands of which were found to be low and woody, and the inhabitants came on board: she ranged along the southernmost island, then steered to the N. E., and on the 20th of April, reached the Island Ceylon.

In the following extracts, from the journals of the ships William Pitt, and Duncan, a circumstantial description of Pona Molubque Atoll will be found, as both these ships passed through the South Channel, between the Island Addon and the south Atoll, and sailed close to the north side of the latter.

William Pitt, Captain Graham, from England, bound to Colombo, passed to the eastward of the Island Roderigue, and between the Chagos, and Seychelle Archipelago's.

Having reached lat. $2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} N.$ lon. $69^{\circ} E.$, 7th of October, 1813, with the wind at West and W. N. W., squally weather, and a lee current, it was thought unsafe to pursue any longer the route toward the Eight Degrees' Channel, in case of not being able to clear the northern Atolls, therefore, bore away to the S. E., in order to pass round to the southward of all the islands. October 9th, steering under reduced sail, keeping a good look-out for the islands, fearing they might not be correctly placed in the charts, at 3 A. M. discovered land about S. E. by E., wore immediately, and stood off on the larboard tack with the wind at west. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 A. M. extremes of the south Atoll from S. $\frac{1}{4}$ E. to S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ W., the surf apparently breaking on white coral reefs projecting about a mile off shore. At 7 A. M. saw the Island Addon from the mast-head bearing from N. N. E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. to N. E. $\frac{3}{4}$ E., the south Atoll from S. $\frac{1}{4}$ E. to W. N. W., distant from the shore about 4 miles: hove to, and sounded with 107 fathoms line, but got no ground. While laying to, perceived the ship drift rapidly to the eastward by the current. At 8 A. M. extremes of the south Atoll from S. W. by S. to W. by S. $\frac{3}{4}$ S., distant about 5 miles.

At 11 A. M. the northern extreme of the Atoll bore west, distant about 4 leagues, the Island Addon in sight from the mast-head bearing from N. $\frac{1}{4}$ E. to N. $\frac{3}{4}$ W., distant 16 or



PRINCE HASSAN IZZ-UD-DIN, Right.
PHOTO ca 1920. L. Vilgou Lib.

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17 miles. At noon lost sight of the land, then the observed lat. $0^{\circ} 35' S.$ which may be considered very near the true lat. of the northern point of Pona Molubque Atoll, and the chronometer makes the same point in lon. $73^{\circ} 17' E.$ measured back from Colombo Flagstaff, allowing the latter in lon. $80^{\circ} 0' E.$ In passing through this channel, we have seen no appearance of danger, and we kept the north point of the Atoll bearing west, until the lat. was observed at noon.

Description. Pona Molubque Atoll, seems chained together by reefs, and it is of considerable extent, rendered dangerous by the strong currents, or a kind of tides, which appear sometimes to run both east and west. When we bore away to the eastward, the low land was seen from the mast-head, extending south as far as the eye could discern, and the eastern side of the islands appeared to lie about N. N. E. and S. S. W.; while we lay to, a number of natives were seen on the beach, apparently fishing. We lay to, with the view of examining these islands as closely as seemed prudent, and should have sent a boat ashore, had not the surf rendered any attempt fruitless.

Although the channel between the Island Addon and Pona Molubque Atoll, cannot be less than 6 or 7 leagues wide, I strongly advise navigators to be extremely guarded when coming near these islands; because we were set 54 miles to the eastward in 20 hours by the current, when sailing at the rate of 7 or 8 miles per log, with fresh westerly winds.

Strong currents.

Duncan, fell in with this Atoll,

Ship Duncan, Capt. Miller, from the Island Mauritius, bound to Bengal, steering S. E. with the wind at S. S. W., 22d of November, 1813, at 11 A. M. saw from the deck, land moderately low, and woody, chiefly cocoa-nut trees. At noon observed lat. $0^{\circ} 31' S.$ Pona Molubque Atoll bearing from E. $16^{\circ} S.$ to E. $40^{\circ} S.$; hauled up in order to pass to the southward of it, but being unable to do so, bore away east.

Nov. 23d. Fresh breezes at S. by W. with clear weather, steering toward the N. W. point of the Atoll, at 1 h. 20 m. P. M. saw another range of islands beyond the nearest, bearing E. $\frac{1}{2} S.$

passed close along its northern side, through the South Channel;

At 1 h. 40 m. the N. W. extreme of the islands bore south, distant 2 miles; steering from this time east, at the rate of $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour till 3 P. M. when their N. E. extremity bore south, distant 2 miles. Hove to, and sounded, no ground at 70 fathoms. At $3\frac{1}{2}$ P. M. saw from the mast-head Addon Island bearing N. by E., distant 17 miles, allowing for the height of the mast, and the trees on the island to be elevated 50 feet above the sea; same time, the nearest part of the South Atoll bore W. $\frac{1}{2} N.$, distant 3 miles. At $5\frac{1}{2}$ P. M. lost sight of the South Atoll.

Description. The islands of this Atoll are low, probably about 20 feet of elevation above the sea, covered chiefly with cocoa-nut trees, and may be seen from the deck of a ship 11 miles. They form like a horse shoe, open to the N. N. W., and I think, are connected together by a reef or bank, dry in most places, with the sea breaking over it; and within it, the water was much discoloured.

The two extremities are united by a narrow bar of sand, over which the sea broke furiously; some places are covered with bushes, and its N. E. end forms an island, having on it some cocoa-nut trees, and behind it were several boats: on the beach of the N. E. point of the principal range of islands, saw several inhabitants and a few huts. Outside of the S. W. range, the beach was very white, apparently steep to, in most places; but farther to the southward, the sea broke 1 mile out, and it was impossible to land in a boat, except to the eastward of the N. E. point.

Although this South Channel is an excellent one, it ought probably not to be adopted, unless with a steady breeze of wind, as there are strong rippings, and I am convinced there is no anchorage at a cable's length from the surf.

Geo. Site.

The north part of Pona Molubque Atoll, I make in lat. $0^{\circ} 32' S.$ lon. $73^{\circ} 21' E.$ by lunar observations and chronometer, and the southern part in lat. $0^{\circ} 39' S.$



PRINCE HASSAN IZZ-UD-DIN,
PHOTO ca 1930. L.Vilgon Lib.

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CURRENTS, in the vicinity of the Maldiva Chain, set more easterly than in any other direction, although among the Atolls, there seem to be tides, alternately running to the east and west, when the weather is settled, with gentle winds. The currents also vary, from local causes, for when the westerly monsoon prevails in full force among the Northern Atolls, in June, July, and August, the current runs to the eastward with the wind; whilst at the same time, more particularly late in June, July, and part of August, when the S. E. trade approaches the equator, the current then often sets to the W. N. W. ward at the southern part of the Chain, in the vicinity of the Equatorial Channel, and the South Atoll.

Currents
and winds
near the
Maldivas.

In March and April, the current generally sets to the westward on the east side of the Northern Atolls, and to the E. N. E. ward about the South Atoll, from the equator to lat. 4° or 5° S., and it extends far to the east and west of the meridian of the islands. This current, is sometimes strong, from 50 to 65 miles in 24 hours; at other times it is weak, and fluctuating. In these months, from the equator to lat. 8° or 9° N. the current sets mostly to the S. Westward.

In May, the current sets strong to the eastward near the equator, sometimes from 50 to 70 miles in 24 hours, in the track near the Southern Atolls, from lat. 2° N. to 2° S. The winds in this space, are then variable, also in April, but mostly from the westward.

In the latter end of June, and in July, when the S. E. trade wind blows close to the equator, the current sets often to W. N. W. ward about the south end of the Maldivas, (as mentioned above) particularly to the south of the equator.

In October, November, December, and January, the current runs mostly to the eastward through the Equatorial Channel, and about the South Atoll; but in these months, it often runs strong to the westward between lat. 5° N. and 3° N. in the track between Ceylon and the Maldivas; frequently from 30 to 55 miles in 24 hours, in November and December, on the meridian of Point de Galle, decreasing in velocity as the equator is approached. In these months, the winds are generally variable and light, with frequent calms, throughout the direct track between the Maldiva Islands and Java Head.

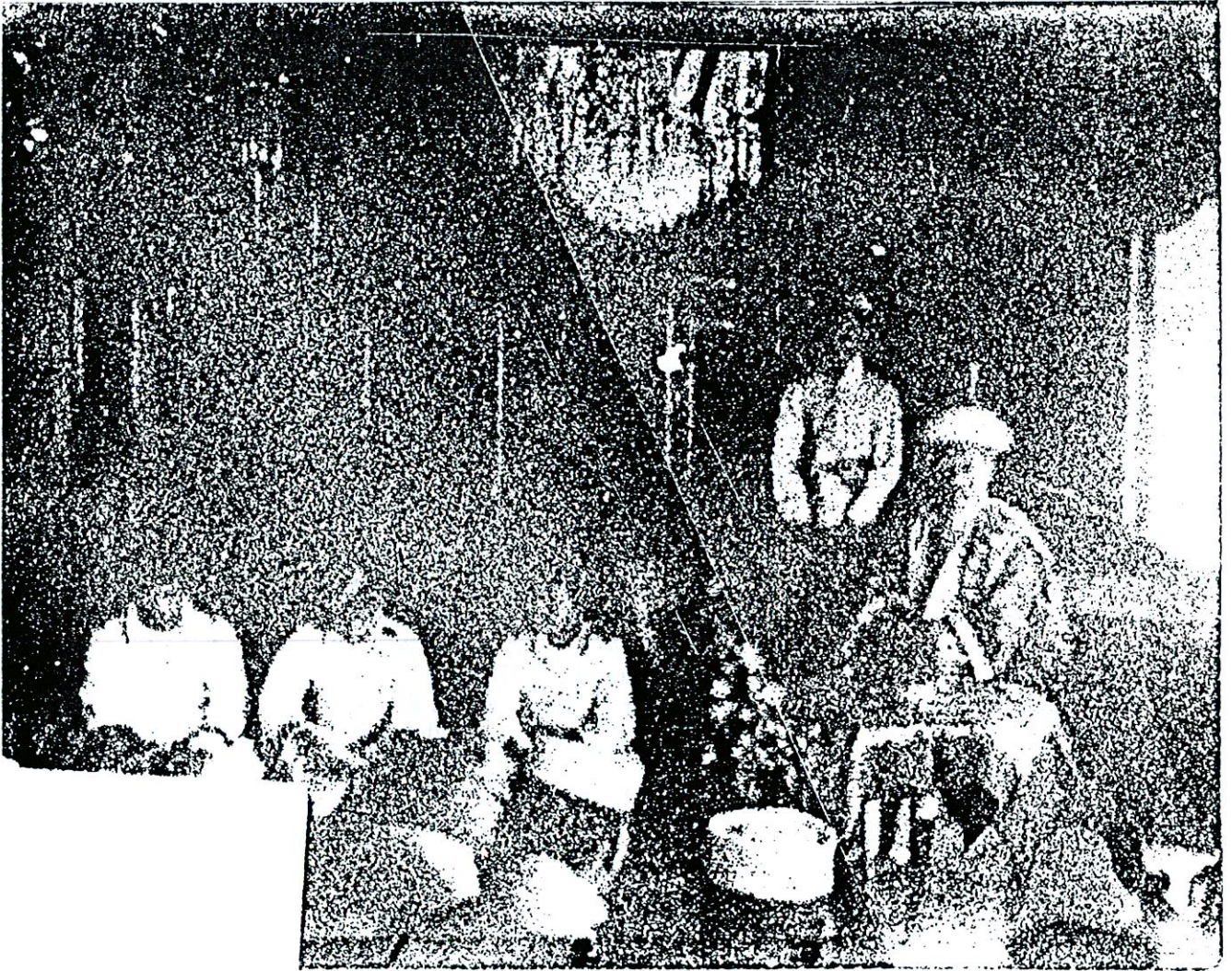
Currents
between
Ceylon and
the Mal-
divas.

Although the geographical positions of the channels which divide the Northern Atolls, described above, ought not to be implicitly relied on, from the deficiency of correct observations; yet, the limits given for the *One and a Half Degree Channel*, the *Equatorial Channel*, and the *South Channel*, may be considered a near approximation to the truth: nevertheless, large ships ought always to approach any part of these islands with great caution, on account of strong currents, often uncertain in their direction, although generally setting to the east or westward between the Atolls, in the principal channels.

Caution
necessary in
approaching
these
Islands.

The foregoing description of the Maldiva Islands, however imperfect, has engrossed much of my time, in searching out and collating the materials of which it is composed; and as this extensive chain of islands, has long been thought an impenetrable barrier to ships coming from the S. W. toward the Island Ceylon, or the southern parts of Hindoostan, my endeavour to restore such information as may be useful, relative to these islands and their navigable channels, which have hitherto been enveloped in obscurity from the knowledge of Europeans, I trust, therefore, cannot but be acceptable to all persons who frequent the navigation of the Oriental Seas.





SULTAN MUHAMMAD SHAMS-UD-DIN III,
with DRUMERS in MALE PALACE,
PHOTO ca 1930, L.Vilgon Lib.

1740. RAYNAL, GUILLAUME-THOMAS.

IN: Histoire Philosophique et Politique, Des Etablissements et du Commerce des Européens dans les Deux Indes, GUILLAUME-THOMAS RAYNAL, Les Maldives, P.94-97, Tome II, Paris 1770, Geneve 1781.

The "Encyclopaedist" Guillaume-Thomas Raynal (1713-1796,) is a famous French historian in the age of Enlightenment, and this work in 6 Volumes was published in 1770, just before the French revolution. In the books he opposes the way the colonial powers in Europe treated the coloured people of India etz. [FRENCH]

Description de la Cote de Malabar.

The Maldive Islands are built up by a long chain of Islands West of Cape Comorin. They are the land most to the West (of India), They are divided into 13 provinces, each called an Atoll. This division is made by the nature, as every Atoll is built up on its own bank. They are defended by small fortifications, when they are attacked from the enemies fleats. The nature has shaped 12,000 islands, the smallest are just banks of sand almost under water by high water. The largest Islands are also rather small, with little circumference.

Out of all the entrances into the lagune, the waterways that separate the Islands from each other, there are just four, one in every quarter, with water enough for a boat to pass through. The others are shallow and have seldom more than tree feet of water. It is sound to assume that all these Islands are formed again and again by the wind and waves, rather then by some enormous catastrophe.

It is believed that this archipelago first was populated by people from the Malabar-coast in India. After them people from the Arabia came sailing and introduced their religion, Muhammedanism. The two population groups melted together into one people, and later when the Portuguese, came to India they tried to introduce slavery on the Islands. This tyranny lasted just for a short time. The garrison that was employed in this enslavement, was exterminated by the Maldivian people, and they again became independent.

After this epoch, they have been under their own despot who has hoisted his flag in Male, and is above all other authorities but the Muslim religious law. He is the only power that is in the Maldives.



BOHRA MERCHANTS IN MALE,
Note: FACE and NOSE FORMS.
PHOTO prior 1955, L.Vilgon Lib.

*

Another force in the state is the soils unfertiltness, it only produces cocoanuts, but they are in a considerable number. The Maldives export as well great quantities of cowries, fish and coir.

Coir is extracted from the cocoanut husk, and from it they make the ropes and cables used by the Indian ships in their rigging. Somthing that as well abounds in the Maldives is the cowries. Great quantities are exported to Ceylon, where it is barthened for arecanuts.

The fish on these Islands is named "Complemasse" (Combali-maas), and that means sundried fish. The got in fish is cleaned by repeted washing in salt seawater. After this it is cut up in filets long and thick as a finger. In all the Islands they make every year two kinds of dried fish. One is called "Gold" and the other kind is called "Best". "Gold" they keep for their own use on the Islands, and "Best" is sold in Moka (Arabia). There one bale of fish is exchanged for three bales of Coffee, which is an important drink in the Maldives.

Cowries are white and lustrous. This "Fish" (Sea-shells) appears two times every month, three days before new-moon and three days after new-moon. They are caught by the women, who go out in the water till their waist, and then picking the cowries from the sand-bottom. They make bundles of them with 12,000 shells in each.

The cowries that they do not keep for their own use in the land, they export to Ceylon, on ships going to and from the Ganges river. Every year there are many ships, trading with cargoes of sugar, rice, clothes and other things that the Maldives lack. In exchange they use the cowries, and some of these stay in the Bengal, where they are used as small money for exchange. All the rest is transported to Europe, where they are an important commodity for the African trade. Those bought for six "Sous", are sold for 12 or 18 and in Guinée the price is 35 "Sous".

The Kingdom Travancore, reaching from Cap Comorin to Cochin in India, used to fight many wars in earlier days against the Maldives. ***



BOHRA MERCHANTS IN MALE,
Note: FACE and NOSE FORMS,
PHOTO prior 1955, L.Vilgon Lib.

1828. "E. R." COMMANDER.

IN: Annales Maritimes et Coloniales, Publicé Par: M, BAJOT, Année 1829, Partie II, Tome 2, P.13-20, L'Imprimerie Royale, Paris 1829.

"E. R." are the initials used by the Commandant of the French Royal Ship the "INDUS". He describes in this article the passage he made the 28 to 29 of July in 1828 through the Canal going South of Hadhdhunmathi Atoll and North of Kolhumadulu Atoll. He came from the Ile Bourbon, Réunion, and was bound for Pondichéry at the Coromandel coast, [FRENCH]

NOTICE about the "Banc of Saya de Malha", and about the passage through a "Maldive Southern Canal", P.17-20.

.... My intention was to go to Pondichéry, by passing through the Maldive Islands in the Canal South of Adoumatis Atoll [Hadhdhunmathi], even called the 1° 30' North Latitude, I continued sailing over the Equator with a good South-Easterly wind which was much in my favour, [S-W-mounsoon] and it took me well to the North as I wanted. The 28th of July, at 9 o'clock in the afternoon, we recognized the first islands in the Adoumatis Atoll. We were then not able to pass to the South of them, so I decided to stay where I was during the night, but in the morning we had by the wind and the current, been brought several miles further to the North. The wind was coming from South-South-East and very favourable, and with the sun coming up we were able to see the major part of the Adoumatis Atoll, and we had to enter into the Canal to the North of it between the Atolls of Adoumatis and Collomandous [Kolhumadulu], little known and less frequented.

I went to the Canal observing all islands and their position. I mapped six or seven new islands in the Collomandous Atoll to the North, and at a distance of about six lieues (33,000 m ?). The Canal opened up to me as a very good alternative, and without any regrets in mind, which would have made it dangerous to pass through, I decided accordingly to try to use this new passage, and started off with an East-North-East course. I observed new islands in the North part of Adoumatis Atoll, all at a distance of one lieue (5,000 m). I even encountered a great number of native boats, and some at anchor in the bays at the lee side of their home islands. The wind and sea was rough and had great violence to the windward side of the islands.

After this we sailed about three miles further (5,000 m), and I changed corse to North-East 1/4 East, and after that to North-East. The wind was favourable all the time coming from the South, and we were sailing good with all sails in the rigg. The open sea was magnifique and perfectly tranquil. The horizon was all visible, at a great distance and we were able to see the tops of the cocoanut-trees on the islands in the Collomandous Atoll as well as we saw them in the Adoumatis Atoll, all at a distance of three miles (5,000 m).



BOHRA MERCHANTS IN MALE,
Note: FACE and NOSE FORMS,
PHOTO prior 1955, L.Vilgon Lib.

At midday we calculated our Latitude to be N. $2^{\circ} 15'$ and at the same time we had the most Eastern island in the Adoumatis Atoll in bearing East 54° South at four miles distance (7,000 m). On our further voyage to the East we saw more islands in the Collomandous Atoll to the North-North-West, and we went through the Eastern entrance of the Canal we just had passed through. Our Longitude after observations was East $71^{\circ} 10'$, and not more inaccurate than some minutes to that given in the sea-chart by Mr. Horsburgh, which is not to exact in these waters.

All the islands are extremely low and flat, and overgrown with cocoanut trees, and are visible up to a distance of most five lieues (28,000 m). The water is blue and the sand is yellow. All the time the waves are hitting against the islands, the banks of sand, and the reefs of coral, all what is above the surface of the sea. All these we saw in the interior of the Atolls, where the natives easily navigated their boats.

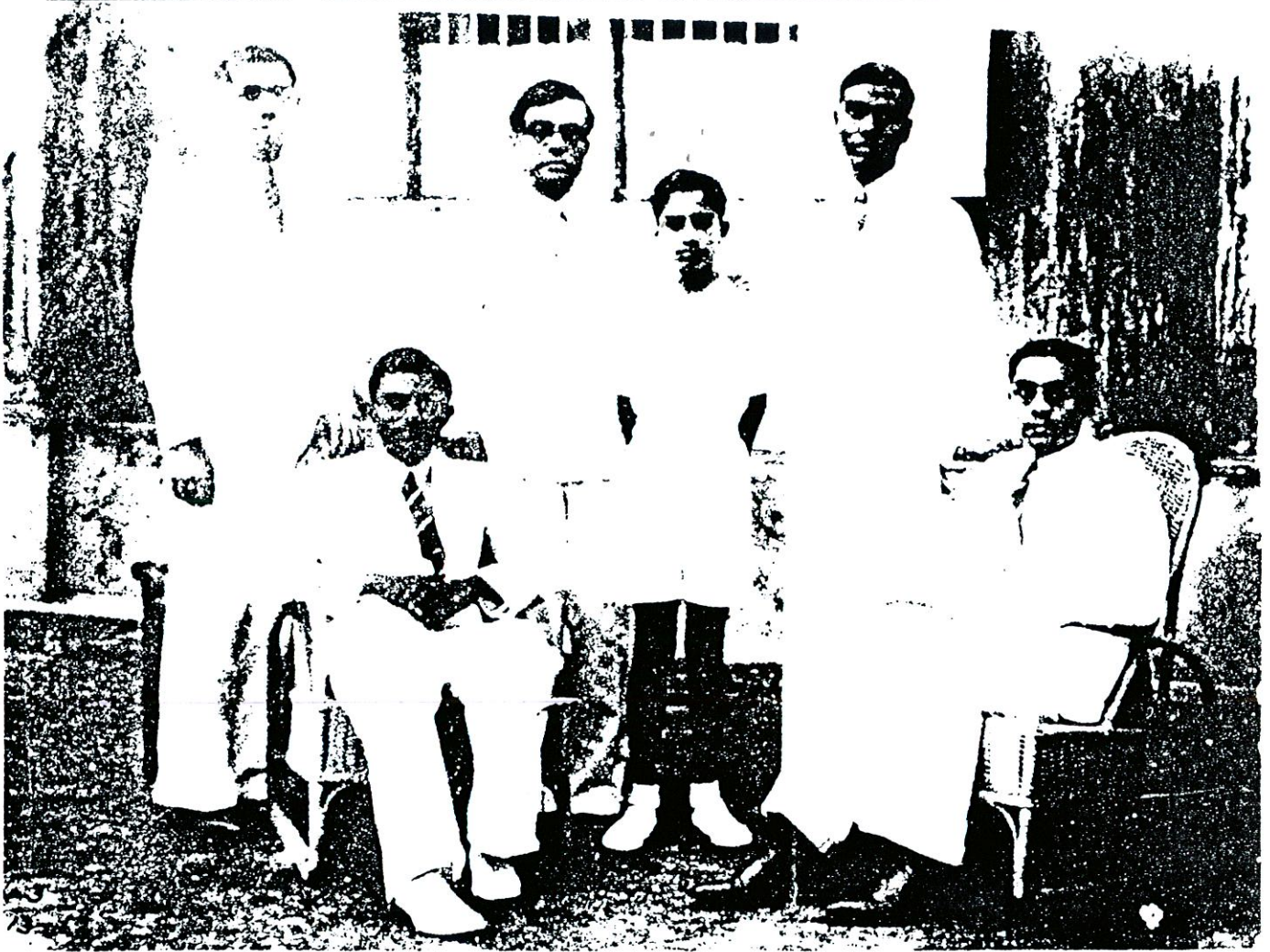
I hereby call the attention to the Collomandous Canal, very little known and less frequented, it presents much less dangers than it is supposed to have. The breadth of it is fourteen to fifteen miles (25,000 m), and not seven or eight miles (13,000 m) as Mr. Horsburgh says. It is quicker to traverse here, but that is not in question when it comes to the safety of the ship. It is only to sail between all the islands of the two Atolls. The depth in the Canal is great and we did not find any bottom when sounding for it.

The distance between the most Westerly island and the most Easterly island in Adoumatis Atoll is 18 miles (33,000 m), and the main direction is North-East and / or South-West. The last island to the East I estimate to be the biggest or longest, but at the same time the islands to the West are more elevated or higher. I counted to 19 islands after entering the Canal till the moment when we were leaving it. In the North-East part of the Atoll there is a great opening into the Atoll between the three last islands and the rest of the islands, probably it might be possible to enter into the interior of the Atoll, nevertheless, it must be a very good anchoring place that here opens upp itself.

The magnetic variation is $1^{\circ} 30'$ North-West. The passing through the Maldive Islands by this Canal or the other Canal by the Equator where the variation as well is $1^{\circ} 30'$ North-East. The wind is South-East or East during the South-West monsoon time. The Equator Canal has its main direction North-East and / or South-West.

In 1822 I was in the same possession and intended to pass through the $1^{\circ} 30'$ North Canal, but the wind refused to come up, so I had to stand by in the calm weather by the Collomandous Canal. During two days the calm prevailed, and I occupied myself during that time to determinate the islands in Adoumatis Atoll to the South and to find out our own position. Finally I went through the Canal by Adoumatis.

In 1824, I was very happy to pass the Maldive Islands through the Equator Canal, which is eight lieues broad (45,000 m). I must say that the last passage is very well known by all mariners. An even older and better known passage is the Canal at 9° North, when going to the coast of the Malabar during the South-West monsoon. ***



BOHRA MERCHANTS IN MALE,
Note: FACE and NOSE FORMS,
PHOTO prior 1955, L.Vilgon Lib.

1835. MALDIVE CENSUS.

IN: Manuscripts written by: PURSER BOYCE, DAVID CHAMPBELL, WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER, ROBERT MORESBY, THOMAS POWELL, and WILLIAM ROBINSON, The Archives of the "Honourable East Indian Company" in Bombay 1835, 1836 and 1837. In the hands of Lars Vilgon. [SWEDISH]

During the British-Indian Navy's survey of the Maldive Islands 1834-37, the Officers on the surveying ships wrote down their acquired knowledge and in these unpublished manuscripts there are notices about the population of the different Atolls and Islands.

In this Census' for 1835, I have used there figures, and as all the 1835 named Islands and Atolls as well are in the Census for 1886 that I presented in "Maldive odd History, Vol 3," I have compared the 1835 and the 1886 figures, and extrapolated the results for the total Maldive Archipelago for 1835. (See next page about the Atolls and Islands.)

The population 1835 for the recorded Atolls and Islands was 11,640.

The population 1886 for the same Atolls and Islands was 28,298.

The total population 1886 for the whole Maldive Archipelago was 46,321.

The total population 1835 for the whole Maldive Archipelago was 19,054.

Pop,1835	11,640		Pop, 1835 = 19,054,
-----	-----	
46,321	28,298		

CALCULATED POPULATION 1835 = 19,054

EXPLANATION and ARGUMENTATION.

The two Atolls THILADHUNMATHI N. and S., and KOLUMADULU (6,569 & 2,855 inhabitants 1886) are not mentioned 1835, but of course included here.

Due to uncounted men out at sea, small children, aso., I do believe that the given figures 1835 are too low. An 5 % enumeration gives 1,000 more persons, and a total Maldive population of about 20,000.

With an annual population growth of ca. 1,25 % . During 50 years this gives an increase of ca. 20,000 persons till 1886, or a total of 40,000.

Consequently the total population 1886 ought to be 40,000, but my Census for 1886 shows the population to be 46,321. Obviously the population increase from 1835 to 1886 was higher than 1,25 % / year. So it was as well from 1886 to 1911.

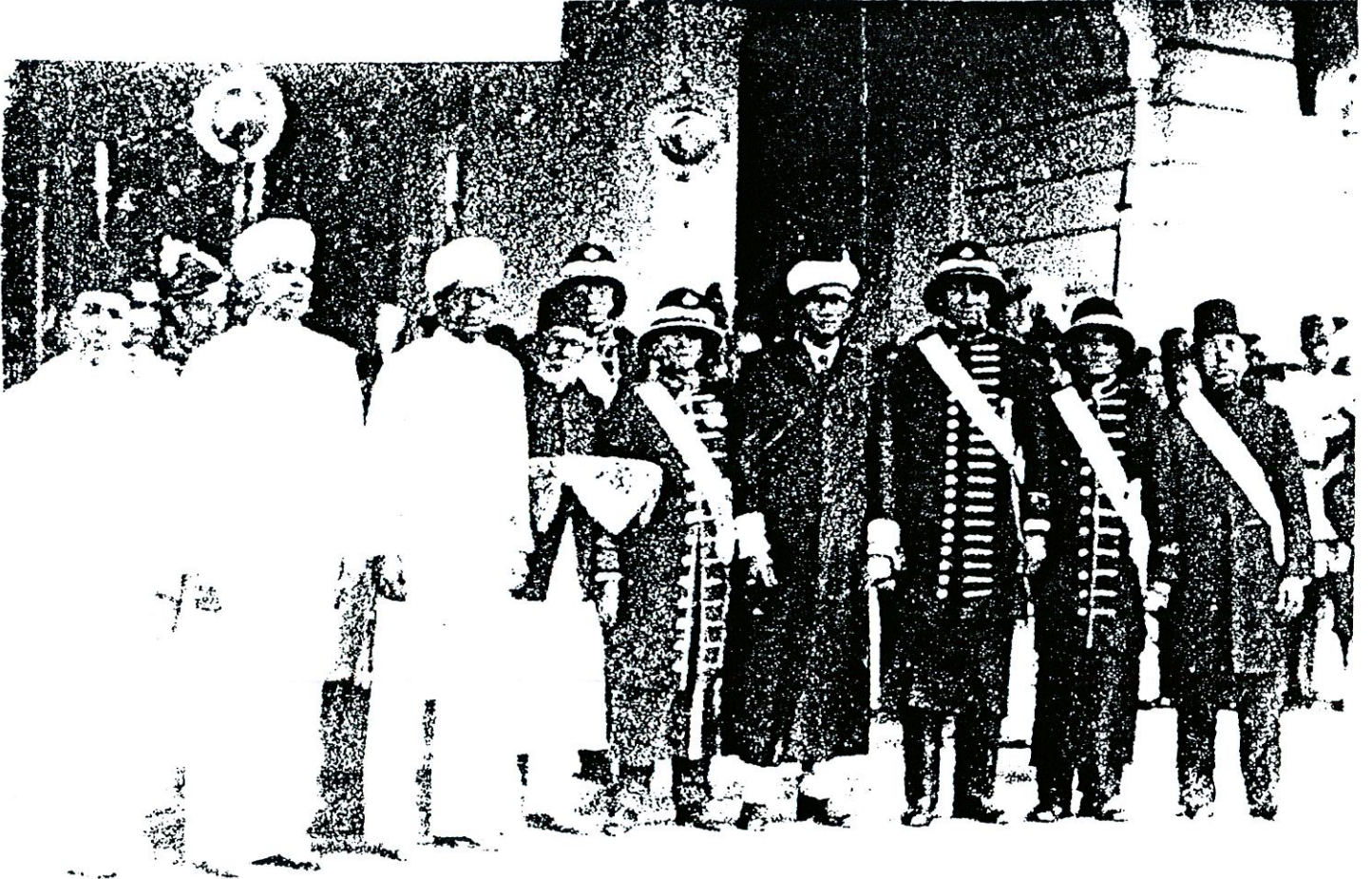
I am fully aware of that my calculations has deficiencies, nevertheless they give a very good estimation that the Maldive Island had an

ESTIMATED POPULATION 1835 = 20,000



SULTAN SHAMS UD DIN in MALE.
PHOTO ca 1930, L.Vilgon Lib.

POPULATION / ATOLL	1835,	1886,
IHAVANDHIPPOLHU Atoll, Total Pop.	740	1,507
MAAMAKUNUDHOO Island,	100	372
MILADUNMADULU Atoll, Total Pop.	1,750	3,675
FADIFFOLU Atoll, Total Pop.	550	1,063
MALOSMADULU N o S, Atoll, 2 Isles	350	316
GOIDHOO/HORSBURG Atoll, Total Isles	200	249
KAASHIDHOO Island,	200	422
GAUFARU Island,	100	161
MALE N, Atoll, Rest Isles,	700	1,599
MALE S, Atoll, Total Pop.	200	1,355
MALE Town, Total Pop.	1,750	6,665
NILANOO N o S, Atoll, Himiti	250	192
FELIDU Atoll, Total Pop.	320	1,355
MULAKU Atoll, Total Pop.	980	1,155
ARI Thoddoe Island,	250	267
HADDUNMATI Atoll, Maavah I.	350	326
FUAH MULAH Island	350	1,550
SUVADIVA Atoll, Total Pop.,	2,000	3,059
ADDU Atoll, Total Pop.	500	3,010
Total for named Atoll / Island in the Year: 1835,	11,640,	1886; 28,298,



MALDIVE EMBASSADORS to CEYLON,
PHOTO ca 1920, L.Vilgon Lib.

1840. HALL, WILLIAM HAROLD.

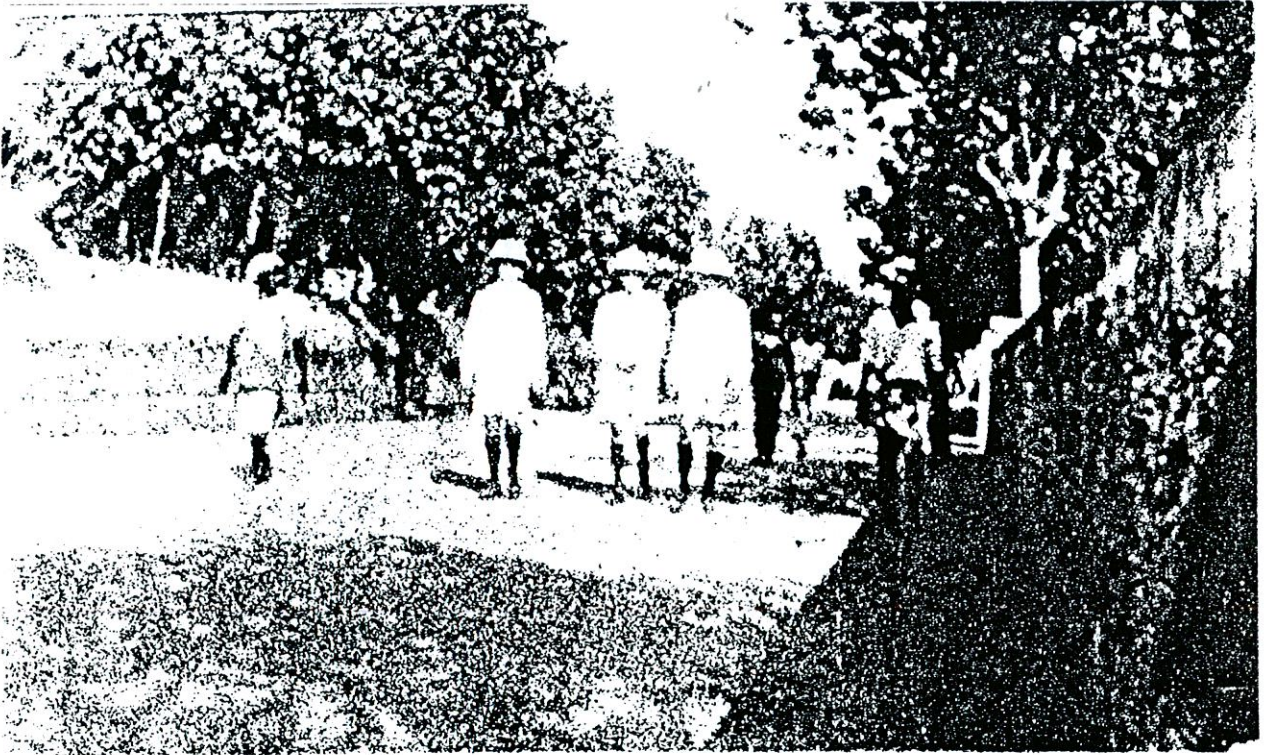
IN: Narrative of the Voyages and Services of the "NEMESIS" from 1840 to 1843, and the combined Naval and Military Operations in China, Notes of Commander W. H. Hall, Observations by W. D. Bernard, In Two Vol, Maldives in Vol.1, P.152-156, London 1844.

BERNARD, WILLIAM DALLAS is the author of the book, based on the information from HALL, WILLIAM HAROLD who was the Commanding Captain of the "NEMESIS" on her way to China through the Maldives the 1st and 2nd of Oct, 1840. The "NEMESIS" was navigated with the help of Moresby's 1837 new Maldivian sea-charts, and Horsburgs 3rd Edition 1826 of "The Indian Directory". They went straight through the MILADHUNMADULU NORTH ATOLL and stopped by the Island FEAWAR on the East side, present name FEEVAH. The Island had 1886 a population of about 200 persons, and the mentioned Mosque is built by Ali Badeyri between 1692 and 1701. [ENGLISH]

The opinion of Horsburgh seems to be fully confirmed, that late in the season it is better for ships to avoid the Mozambique Channel, and rather to proceed to the Eastward of Madagascars, and then pass between Diego Garcia and the Seychell Islands. Steamers, however, would have less need of this where coal to be had at Mozambique, but the "NEMESIS" had taken in no coal since she left the Cape of Good Hope in July; and, although she was fortunate enough to procure a small supply of wood, still, from its greater bulk, she could not carry so many days' fuel of it as she could of coal.

It was important, moreover, to reserve the coal she had remaining, for any case of emergency that might arise, and which could not be foreseen. On leaving JOHANNA (The 5th of Sept, 1840, JOHANNA is a small Island in the Mozambique Channel) she had only twenty-five tons of coal on board, very little more than two days' consumption, besides a little wood. It was, therefore, requisite to be very sparing in its use, and she consequently made almost no use of her engines until four days after she crossed the Line, and even then only for a few hours.

From the Equator the current was always Easterly; but nothing particular occurred worth noticing, except that, as she approached the Maldivian Islands, she encountered very heavy squalls, accompanied with rain.



BRITISH OFFICIALS in MALE,
PHOTO ca 1930. L.Vilgon Lib.

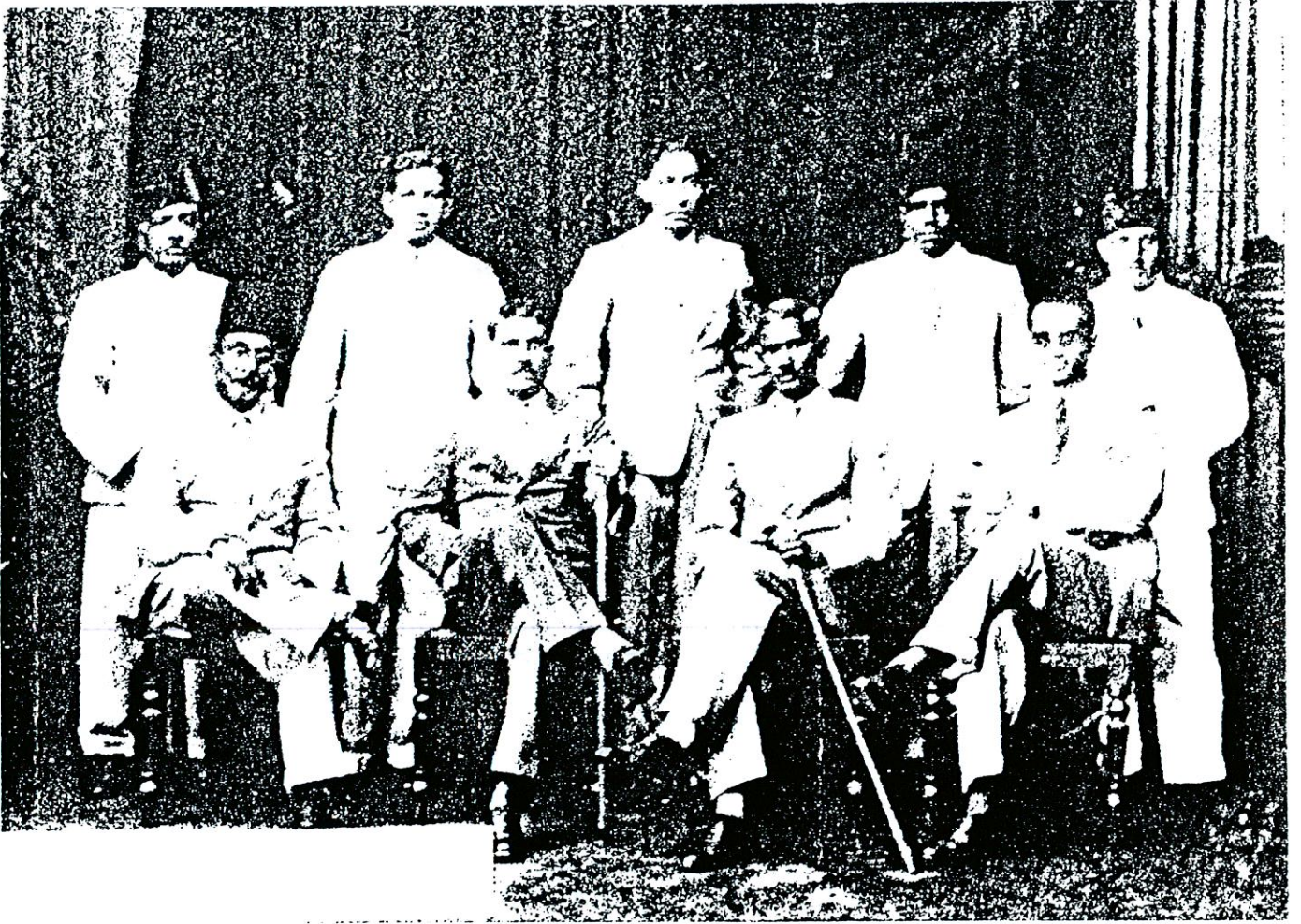
*

On the following day, the 1st October, the Maldives were in sight; and, in order to carry her through them rapidly, steam was got up for a few hours, until she came to, in the afternoon, within a quarter of a mile of the shore, one of the Easternmost of the islands, named FEAWAR, (FEEVAH in MILAGHUNMADULU Atoll) having shaped her course straight across the middle of the long, and until lately, much dreaded group of the Maldivian Archipelago.

This extensive chain or archipelago of islands lies in the direct track of ships coming from the South-West towards Ceylon, and the Southern part of Hindostan (India), it was long dreaded by mariners, and shunned by them as an almost impenetrable and certainly dangerous barrier. It is stated by Horsburg, that the early traders from Europe to India were much better acquainted with these islands than modern navigators, and that they were often passed through in those days without any apprehension of danger.

The knowledge of their navigable channels must therefore have been, in a great measure, lost; and, although the utmost credit is due to the indefatigable Horsburgh for his arduous efforts to restore some of the lost information, it is to the liberality of the Indian Government, and particularly to the scientific labours and distinguished services of Captain Moresby and Commander Powell, of the Indian Navy, that we are indebted for the minute and beautiful surveys of all these intricate channels which have been given to the world since 1835.

This archipelago is divided into numerous groups of islands, called by the natives Atolls, each comprising a considerable number of islands, some of which are inhabited, and abound in cocoa-nut trees, while the smaller ones are often mere barren rocks or sandy islets. The number of these islands, large and small, amounts to several hundred; and the groups, or Atolls, into which they are divided, are numerous. They are laid down with wonderful accuracy and minuteness by Captains Moresby and Powell; so that, with the aid of their charts, the intricate channels between them can be read with almost the same facility as the type of a book. Thus one of the greatest boons has been conferred upon navigators of all nations. They are disposed in nearly a meridian line from latitude 7° 5' N. to latitude 0° 40' S., and consequently extend over the hottest portion of the tropics, for the distance of more than three hundred and seventy miles. (Equals 685 km. In fact 470 miles = 870 km.)



BRITISH DELEGATION in MALE.
PHOTO ca 1960. L.Vilgon Lib.

*

As the "NEMESIS" passed through these Islands, she found that all the former difficulties had now vanished. So accurate were the soundings, and given on so large a scale, that it was more like reading a European road book than guiding a vessel through an intricate labyrinth of islands.

The very sight of a steamer completely frightened the inhabitants of the little FEAWAR; who, although they at length came alongside without much fear, could never be persuaded to come on board the vessel. However, they had no objection to act as guides, for the purpose of showing what was to be seen upon their island; and, while a little necessary work was being done to the vessel, two or three of the officers landed, and were soon surrounded by a crowd of natives upon the beach, quite unarmed.

A stroll along the shore, covered with pieces of coral, soon brought them to a Mosque and burial-ground, which was remarkable for the neatness with which it was disposed. The little ornamented head-stones, with inscriptions, and flowers in many places planted round them, probably refreshed by the sacred water of a well close at hand, proved, at all events, the great respect paid to their dead, which is common among all Mohammedans. Indeed, the inhabitants of all these numerous islands are mostly of that persuasion, and consider themselves to be under the protection of England, the common wish of almost all the little independent tribes of the East.

The village itself appeared to be at least half deserted, the poor people, particularly the women, having hastily run away, leaving their spinning-wheels at their doors. They appear to carry their produce, consisting of oil, fish, rope, mats, &c. to Ceylon and other parts of India, in large boats of their own construction, bringing back in return rice and English manufactured goods. Indeed, an extensive traffic is carried on between all the Northernmost of this extensive chain of islands, or submarine mountains, and the nearer parts of the coast of India.

On the same evening, the "NEMESIS" continued her voyage, and, on the afternoon of the 5th October, reached the harbour of POINTE DE GALLE, in Ceylon. She came in under steam, with about eight tons of coal remaining, having been exactly one month from JOHANNA. ***



HARRY CHARLES PURVIS BELL,
Born 1851, Died 1937.
PHOTO ca. 1900. L.Vilgon Lib.

1887-1904. BELL, HARRY C P

IN: PAPERS RELATING TO THE MALDIVE ISLANDS, By: HARRY CHARLES PURVIS
BELL, Publ. in "Ceylon Sessional Papers 1904," 103 P, Colombo 1904.

From his Maldivite visit in 1879 to his death in 1937, Mr. H C P Bell collected all Maldivite information he could find in all the various localities in the civilized world. In 1910 he published a Book of 300 pages, divided in three parts. This is "Part One", already printed in 1904 in "Ceylon Sessional Papers 1904", and it contains "General Papers" 1887-1904, about the Maldivite Islands and its relations to Ceylon.

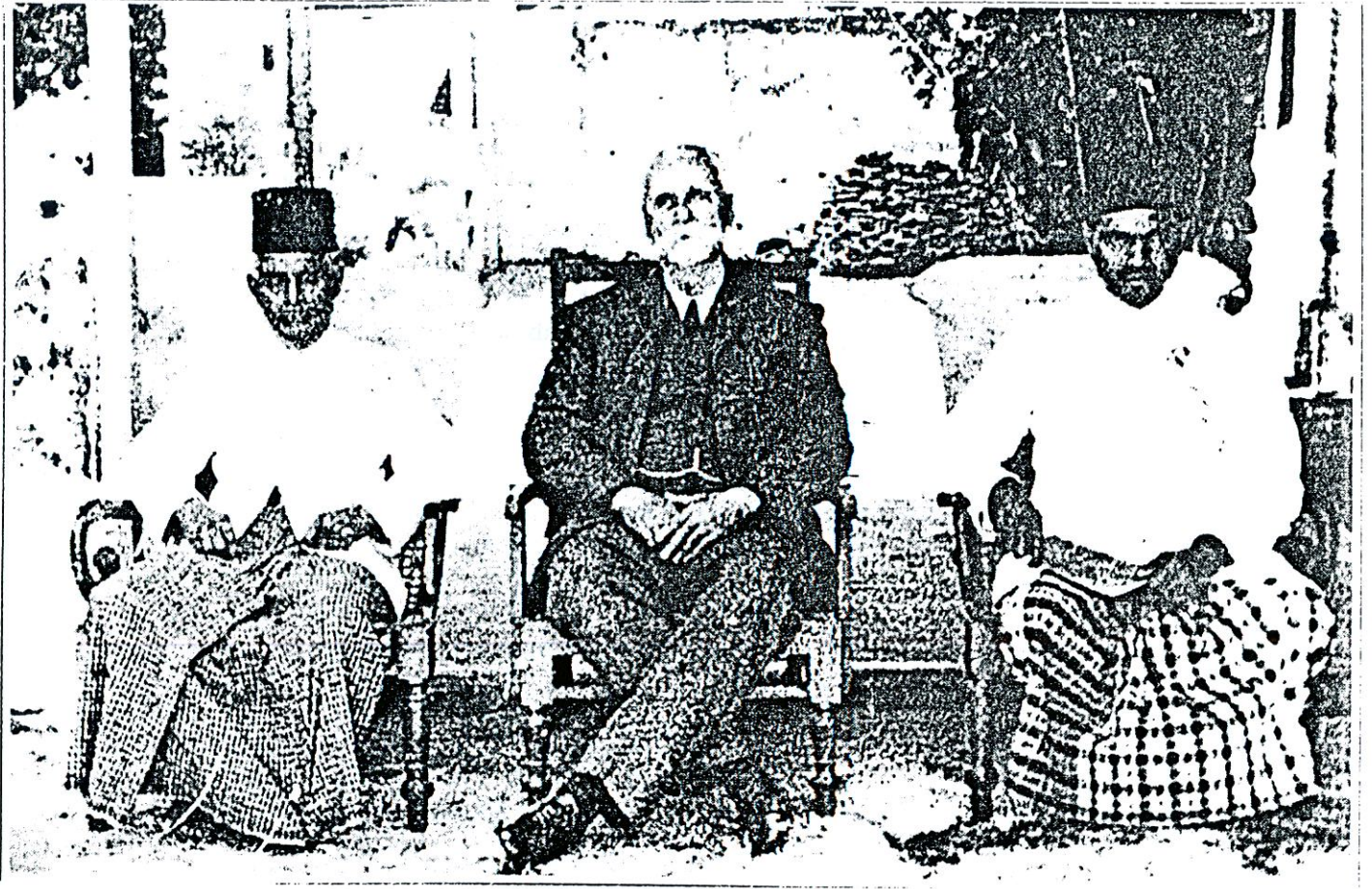
The whole book is (was), as far as I have found out, in two known copies in the entire world. One in "Colombo Museum Library", Ceylon, and the other in "Foreign and Commonwealth Office", London. The copy in London disappeared in 1994 and no one seems to be able to find it. The copy in Colombo is so far in good hands, but impossible to microfilm as the Museum's head-man the "Department of National Archives" is in the hands of incompetent directors. [Not the Museum]

"Part Two" contains "Political Papers 1904-1910," ca. 100 P, and
"Part Three" contains "Miscellaneous Papers 1904-1910," ca. 100 P.
In due time they will be put out in these series. [ENGLISH]

PAPERS

RELATING TO

THE MALDIVE ISLANDS.



H.C.P. BELL with AHMAD DIDI and AECUL MAJID DIDI,
PHOTO 1922, MALE, L. Vilgon Lib.

THE MALDIVE ISLANDS.

No. 1.

Captain R. M. Lloyd, R.N., to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G.

H.M.S. Briton,
Malé, Maldivé Islands,
February 23, 1887.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I HAVE the honour to forward for your information an account of the state of affairs at this port.

2. Acting on the suggestions contained in the memorandum with which you were good enough to furnish me, I made such inquiries as seemed desirable: (1) of the *de facto* Government; (2) of the principal Bombay merchants; (3) I also interviewed both the present and *ex*-Sultans.

3. On anchoring (10 A.M.) I was waited on by the so-called Regent Ibrahim Didi, and, having ascertained the state of the Government, saluted the flag in the customary manner, which was returned.

4. In the afternoon I visited the Sultan Muhammad Muhaigemedin. The impression he gave me was an unfavourable one. He seemed a very nervous and shy young man of about twenty-four years of age, and a mere puppet in the hands of men like Ibrahim Didi and others of his own relatives of a higher intelligence than the ordinary natives. He looked very delicate (almost idiotic), and chewed betelnut constantly. There was some little difficulty in conversing with him, as his replies were given in short whispers, and the Maldivian interpreter supplied from the Secretariat is not very experienced in the work, but he (the Sultan) stated that he hoped "he should always preserve the friendship of our Queen."

5. I attach my original minutes of the interviews with the merchants, also of one with Ibrahim Didi.

6. As to the latter, he fully admits the suzerain rights of Her Majesty, as exercised through yourself (as did also the Sultan and *ex*-Sultan), and in this connection I may say that I kept your Excellency's views very carefully before me, and that the admissions made as to suzerainty were entirely spontaneous and in no sense forced by me.

7. There are no traces of political intervention on the part of Dr. Rosset or any other foreigners or Powers.

8. There has been no attempt to make a coaling depôt since that alluded to in your memorandum as having occurred some years back, nor have any such causes anything to do with the downfall of the late Sultan.

9. The change of Sultans would seem to have been almost a family arrangement, but it is one, I confess, I have been unable to comprehend. On one hand, there is some evidence to show that the *ex*-Sultan was greatly in debt to the Bombay merchants, as were also his subjects; that he favoured the former, and that his family (or a section of it) with their many supporters disapproved of this; and on these grounds and on those of ill-health (which are very apparent) he consented to resign in favour of his nephew. It is difficult to realize the effect of such a change, as the Sultan's advisers (Ibrahim Didi and others—all relatives) remain much as before, and as Ibrahim Didi controls the Customs and Revenues his voice in all matters must be powerful. On the other hand, the *ex*-Sultan is a man of intelligence and presence, incomparably above his successor. He does not appear to be unpopular, and is even now on friendly terms with the present Sultan (his nephew) and his advisers. I cannot therefore offer any solution of this problem.

10. I understand that letters* are on their way to Your Excellency from the Sultan and Ibrahim Didi reporting more fully as to the recent changes and state of affairs. I have been shown the original of the latter's, but so far have not been able to get a translation, which would probably have helped me in summarizing matters.†

11. With regard to Ibrahim Didi, he appears to be an English subject, but was born in the Maldives and lived there many years before his eight years' residence in Galle. He denies that he is Regent or Prime Minister, but states that the accident of his relationship to the reigning family, his former residence in an English place and association with its inhabitants, have thrust him forward in correspondence (the natives generally being ignorant and uneducated); that he always does his best to support English authority and to preserve friendly relations. He says *most emphatically* that it would be a great boon if England would exercise more power and interfere more actively in the internal affairs of the Maldives (that the simple and uneducated natives do not understand our non-intervention). This, indeed, is the expressed opinion of all alike, Sultans and their followings, merchants and theirs. The *ex*-Sultan dwelt very strongly on this point, and was most plaintive in his appeal, saying it was the only way to save the country from ruin. For myself I venture to add that I think some mode of intervention, more palpable than at present, would be beneficial to both the Maldivians and ourselves. I speak advisedly, and with Your Excellency's ruling before me that there is no disposition to extend the authority of England as suzerain. I feel that, having entrusted me with a mission of inquiry, you will be pleased also to have my opinions, however crude.

* Reply to Colonial Secretary's letter, February 1, 1887.

† Since read to me. I have no remarks.

12. A rather curious fact was brought to my notice when I landed, viz., the destruction by fire of the whole of the Bombay merchants' and Galle traders' quarter godowns and boutiques, the former of which are situated within a walled compound outside the fort, and the latter on the beach bordering the inner harbour separated by another wall, but in close proximity to the other buildings. These are all bamboo and mat structures. This fire occurred about the 7th February, and its occurrence runs strangely on a parallel with Ibrahim Didi's threats and warnings to the merchants, and it was only on this day or the preceding one that they had refused to sign an agreement as to their withdrawal, or to pay a lump sum of money in lieu of all yearly taxation and dues. There is some unconfirmed evidence to show that the fire was wantonly caused by a native servant of one of the Bombay merchants,* who had removed his goods prior to the conflagration. I cannot find ground for such an act on his part. There are some ten Galle traders (settlers)—small shopkeepers—who claim to have lost three-fourths of their goods.

13. The idea of Ibrahim Didi's to free his country and people from debt does not seem altogether unjustifiable, though his manner of attempting it by driving away merchants who have traded with them for many years cannot be supported. Wherever I have met men of the class of the merchants' agents here, whether at Zanzibar, East Coast of Africa, Aden, or elsewhere, they always seemed to me to have acquired Jewish habits and to prey upon the poor people, who, were soon within their clutches, whether by money lending, barter, or the objectionable truck system. Then, when the lowest depth of poverty and indebtedness is reached, reaction sets in, and there is an attempt to throw off the yoke and to repudiate. This stage would seem to have been reached here, though I am free to admit there was nothing present to the eye that would in the least indicate a poverty-stricken population.

14. I trust I have now laid before Your Excellency all the intelligence I have been able to gather, and that my own observations may not have been misplaced. I have made neither promises nor threats during my inquiries, and it is distinctly understood that the several points in dispute or under discussion will be laid before you. I have, however, taken occasion to impress upon Ibrahim Didi in conversation the great necessity that exists for the proper care and protection of British subjects and the danger of interference with legitimate commerce, and he has undertaken in all things to be guided by Your Excellency's ruling or advice.

15. There have been no shipwrecks here for some three years past.

16. The interpreters from your Secretariat are being properly cared for on shore, and will return with this letter by the ss. "Ceylon."

I have, &c.

RODNEY M. LLOYD,
Captain.

Enclosure in No. 1.

MINUTES of Inquiry on Board H.M.S. Briton at Malé, February 22, 1887.

1.—NURBHOY MOOSAJEE, Agent for Třebbhay Essajee (at Colombo), representing firm of Carinjee Jafferjee & Co.:—

Question 1.—Trade depressed. He has been at various times—four years, three years, and a few months—residing here. Knows nothing about reasons for change of Government. His trade not affected by it. On 2nd February a fire broke out in the godowns in the back compound at about 4 A.M. It contained coir rope, oil (cocoanut), &c. Does not know who first discovered the fire. They had only time to save themselves and what they could take in their hands. Tom-tom was beaten (as customary) to summon the inhabitants, who came, but gave no assistance. This fire spread into the shops on the beach in compound beyond the wall and entirely burnt them out, also burnt a portion of Maldive quarter, in which some of their goods were stored. He was the greatest sufferer, some £8,000 or £9,000,† as he states. There is a custom-house. Ibrahim Didi receives customs dues. They are paid in kind (stated as one-twelfth), not in cash. Most for rice as heaviest. Does not feel safe here. Says the fire must have been intentional, as it was not a dwelling-house where it broke out. Has been warned‡ to leave the Island by April. Since this fire, has been told by Ibrahim Didi they could remain.

Have not seen the Sultan, and have no direct communication with him. Everything passes through Ibrahim Didi. They have no security for their goods in present thatched houses; require brick or stone buildings.

2.—ALLYBHOY, Agent for Seikh Třeb Abdoolally of Colombo, representing the firm of Jeevinjie Noorbhoy of Bombay:—

Question 1.—Trade fairly good. Has been off and on here for the last twenty-seven years. Last time fourteen months. The *ex-Sultan* wished to keep the Bombay merchants here, but Ibrahim Didi and the others would not hear of it, and for this reason they deposed him. The *ex-Sultan* owes his firm and others a good deal of money. They hoped to be repaid by the dues levied on buggalows (from ten to twenty come a year; charged Rs. 40 each), also in cowries and coir. Ibrahim Didi gave me notice to leave at the beginning of the south-west monsoon (April) and to discontinue trading altogether, and asked me to sign a bond to this effect. I did not do so. The *ex-Sultan* also advised not. Ibrahim Didi objects to their remaining longer than a few months at a time. The natives are heavily in their debt§. Would be paid—if at all—in fish. They are very poor. They are in great fear of fires.¶ Since the last fire they have been allowed to go on trading as before. Fire occurred on 3rd February in the shop of Carinjee Jafferjee at 4 A.M., when they woke and found all in flames. Tom-tom beaten. No assistance given. Fire spread to stores on beach, and all burnt. Two houses (empty) of Maldivians burnt, and one house with their goods in Maldive quarter destroyed. Does not know who did it; it was not accidental.

* Name in Minutes.
† A lao of rupees nearly.

‡ Four months' notice from November.
§ Truck system apparently.

¶ Incendiary.

Estimates his loss (seven houses and contents) at £1,000 or £5,000 sterling.* Asks our intervention to prevent their being sent away and trade stopped. Natives are very unruly and threatening to them. They require stone or brick houses for safety. Twenty-two British subjects have left Malé since the last fire, being afraid to stay. Confirms the detention of his vessel (eleven days) mentioned in Government documents and his original letter.

The vessel was sent away without unloading to Colombo, two men being sent in her to report the last destruction of everything by fire and report to the Governor.

3.—MOOSAGHI RAHIMANJEE, representing the firm of Cariunjee Adamjee of Colombo and Ghoolam Hussein Abdhool Khadir of Bombay :—

Question 1.—Trade bad. Firm has been established here for twenty-four years. Remains three or four years at a time. Says *ex-Sultan* was favourable to Bombay merchants, as was his father. Was forcibly deposed by Ibrahim Didi and others. Has been warned by Ibrahim Didi to leave in four months (original notice), and has refused entry to his ships. The great fire happened early in the morning. They saved their books and what they stood up in. Does not know who did it. Has no enemies, except Ibrahim Didi and a few. The Maldivian natives like the Bombay merchants. Fire could not have been accidental. Estimates his loss at over £5,000 sterling† Has property in the fort of value of half a lac also. The ground is Sultan's. They build on it. Suggests that they were burnt out because they would not sign Ibrahim Didi's bond promising to quit. The fire occurred the same night or following as the signature was asked of them. After the fire they went to Ibrahim Didi and asked his protection, which he refused. They have other buggalows coming, and are afraid to land their goods. Since the fire, has been told he can stop and go on trading. Want to be allowed to have good brick buildings and to live here with the same privilege as before. Says that the Maldivian natives who work for his firm have been ill-treated and beaten by Ibrahim Didi's orders, tied up to trees, &c.

4.—MALEKJEE ARDOOLALLY, representing the firm of Shaik Hyptulla Bay Abdoolally, Colombo and Bombay :—

Question 1.—Does good trade. Has been established here one and a half year. Believes late Sultan was deposed because he showed favour to the Bombay merchants. The change has not affected his business. Ibrahim Didi has told him to clear out with all his goods in three months, the reason being that he was asked to lend a lac of rupees at Ibrahim Didi's suggestion, which he refused. All their godowns and houses were burnt down at about 4 A.M., 2nd and 3rd February. Tom-toms beaten, but no help given. The natives threw stones at their people and looted what they could and ran away. He saw one of his boxes in the hands of a native. Estimates his loss at £1,500. Fire could not have been accidental. Keeps some of his stores in the Fort. Did not lose all. The *ex-Sultan* had given him a house some time ago, and he built another. Ibrahim Didi and three others govern the country. Sultan has nothing to say. They require security for their persons and property, and even their documents (shipping, &c.) are tampered with and altered. Good buildings required. Natives are generally friendly to them.

5.—IBRAHIMJEE VALLEEJEE, Agent for Adamjee Luckmanjee, Colombo :—

Question 1.—Has been established here three years. Trade not so good as previously. The *ex-Sultan* was kindly disposed to the Bombay merchants, and Ibrahim Didi and others deposed him. The *ex-Sultan* owed him nothing, but his accounts have not been balanced.‡ Since the change of Government has received orders to leave the place altogether in four months and give up trading. Ibrahim Didi told them all that they must sign an agreement to this effect. Ibrahim Didi is in charge of the revenues, and told them they must understand he intended to increase all the dues.

His charge was not fixed, they paid in kind. One-twelfth would be the charge. Ibrahim Didi claimed to take what he liked, and has levied duties on other goods very recently.

States fire broke out one evening (2nd February) and was extinguished the next morning very early; all was burnt down. He estimates his loss at £700 to £800. Some of his property was in the Fort, but most was burnt. Fire could not have been accidental. Cannot say who did it. Did not see any looting, or people being stoned or ill-treated. He saved about Rs. 500 of cloth, copper cash, &c. Is afraid to stop here. Has a buggalow now waiting to land goods, but the risk is too great, as he does not know what might happen. Before the fire asked for police protection (which he would pay for), but was refused. Were only permitted to land cargo from these vessels by Ibrahim Didi if they signed a bond to say they would leave in three or four months. This was generally refused. They ask for brick- or stone-built godowns and proper security for their residence, as now they are frightened to remain. Natives in general are friendly. This unfavourable state of affairs with regard to trade has been increasing for the last three or four years, and has been worse for the last four months.

6.—IBRAHIM DIDI.

Question 1.—Firstly, thirty years ago there was one Bombay firm, then ten years after another came. He himself was born in Malé. Lived eight years in Ceylon; went there when he was about thirty. Considers himself a British subject. Has been now three years in Malé, during all which he has held the position of Prime Minister, but does not hold it in a responsible way. The Sultan nominates his own Council, the number being increased according to the importance of the subject. Ibrahim Didi has charge of revenue and customs and can deal with all small matters. He holds the same position with present Sultan as he did with *ex-Sultan*, by whom he was appointed. Sultan abdicated through quarrels amongst themselves, and the people disliked him. Is closely related to both parties.

* Half a lac.

† Half lac rupees.

‡ Truck system.

States that the Maldivian natives are very poor, and are greatly in the debt of the Bombay merchants, who have now so greatly increased in number.

When there were fewer of them the Maldivians had money of their own, and were generally in better circumstances. The Government also became greatly in their debt, which is increasing every year. Formerly they traded according to the monsoons. Sold what they could in the three or four months, and took away what remained. Now they attempt to remain permanently. Their country is in a state of bankruptcy, and by reverting to the former conditions of foreign trade the tone of his people would be raised and their borrowing propensities would be lessened. The Bombay merchants, having the Maldivian people entirely in their power, charge what they please, and they are ashamed to face them. He says *distinctly and forcibly* that they wish the Ceylon Government to *look into this unhappy state of affairs* and to help them, if possible, out of their strait.

He assembled all the merchants and told them that the country was so heavily in debt that he found it necessary to increase the dues. Nothing was then decided. A month after he again asked them, when they wished to know what the Government required. When he (Ibrahim Didi) asked if five of them together would pay a lump sum (one lac) yearly to Government to be relieved of all rent and taxation and customs dues. Three days afterwards he saw them, and they were not all agreed.

He levied a duty in kind of one-twelfth on all goods imported. The buggalow "Gungah Pakarit" that arrived meanwhile he refused permission to trade* till some arrangement had been come to, and they had signed the necessary document. Meanwhile the ship left.†

Has full knowledge of the fact of a fire having burnt out the whole of the Bombay merchants' buildings, godowns, and boutiques, but no assistance was possible, though he sent his people. It was not an accident. Nothing known of missing Ambassador.

States further with regard to the fire they held a meeting of the Council and asked the Maldivians who were in the employ of the Bombay and Galle merchants what they knew about it. The servants of Moedeem and Ismaljees (Maldivians) were employed in that quarter. They stated that they heard that the Bombay merchants were unfavourable to Ibrahim Didi and his Government, and burnt the place.

One Mahomet Ally (Bombay man) is said to have burnt it, and he made known this to the Bombay merchants.

No. 2.

His Highness the Sultan of the Maldivian Islands to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G.

Translation.

Malé.

THOUSANDS of salutations to the friendly Governor at Colombo from the newly-crowned Sultan of the Maldives, Muhammad Muin-ud-din.

We beg to inform Your Excellency that a letter was received by Ibrahim Dorhinrena Kilukufani, an officer appointed to superintend the proper performance of the revenue duties of the Government and the interests of the islanders, from the Colonial Secretary of the Colonial Secretary's Office, who assists Your Excellency in the Government. When this letter was read to us we came to understand that we were wrong in not having informed Your Excellency of what transpired here as the result of dissatisfaction among the people. The chiefs did not inform us that anything that happened here was of a serious nature. There was nothing that appeared to us serious. A true and correct account of what actually transpired here is given by the Dorhinrena in his letter to the aforesaid gentleman (the Lieutenant-Governor) sent by the bearer of this.

If Your Excellency considers that we are to blame in that we assumed the Sultanate in the way we did, we beg that we may be pardoned. When we were sorrowing over the destruction by fire of the shops of the merchants and the houses of certain natives of the Island the letter from the Colonial Secretary was received. As that gentleman in his letter expressed that a mission was expected from us we send Muhammad Rana Bandari Kilukufani and Segu Muhammad Naibu Tuttu, a functionary under the Fandiyyur (Kazi) here from the time of our grandfather, to explain matters. Of these two, Segu Muhammad Naibu Tuttu is senior.

We beg Your Excellency will be pleased to grant them an audience and to entertain any request they may desire to make.

Dated the 19th day of Jamad-ul-avval.

[Bears seal of S. Muhammad Muin-ud-din.]

No. 3.

His Highness the Sultan of the Maldivian Islands to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G.

Translation.

SULTAN Ibrahim Nur-ud-din, son of Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din, having reigned (for a period of) five years and one month, and seeing that he cannot agree with the chief officers of the realm, has, in order that he may preserve peace among the people and avert the calamity which, he anticipated, would result from his continuance as Sultan, willingly, in the presence of the then Fandiyyarus (Chief Priests) of the Maldives, Alkazi Ismail and Nulkazi Ibrahim Jad-ud-din as witnesses, delivered over the Sultanate to, and abdicated the throne in favour of, Muhammad Muin-ud-din, son of Hasan Is-ud-din, who is a son of the (late) Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din. This conciliatory document was written by Naibu Isa, son of An-Naibu Muhammad, at the request and with the permission of Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din.

Dated 19th day of Jamad-ul-avval.

[Bears seals of both Sultans.]

* Detained eleven days.

† After the fire.

No. 4.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir. H. T. Holland, Bart.,
M.P., G.C.M.G.

Queen's Cottage, Nuwara Eliya,
Ceylon, April 22, 1887.

Miscellaneous.—No. 171.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to enclose for your information the copy of a report recently addressed to me by Captain Rodney Lloyd, R.N., H.M.S. Briton, with respect to certain recent occurrences in the Maldive Islands.*

2. Complaints were in February last made to me by native merchants trading at Malé that a revolution had taken place in the Maldives, which had resulted in the dethronement of the Sultan and the establishment of a Regency under one Ibrahim Didi, who had directed all traders, except those of one single Bombay firm, to leave Malé, granting them only a short delay for the arrangement of their affairs previous to their expulsion.

3. While these complaints were still under consideration H.M.S. Briton arrived at Colombo, and I received by her a letter from Rear-Admiral Sir F. Richards, K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief on the East Indian Station, informing me that he had directed the "Briton" to call at the Maldives on her way to Zanzibar, and that Captain Lloyd would take any letters or persons whom I might desire to send there, and generally give me any assistance I might desire to obtain from him.

4. I gladly availed myself of this offer to request Captain Lloyd to investigate the circumstances attending the so-called revolution, and this he readily undertook to do.

5. The result was the report enclosed, which you will, I hope, agree with me in considering as highly creditable to Captain Lloyd's good sense and judgment.

6. The so-called "revolution" seems to have been a perfectly peaceable and apparently amicable family arrangement, nor does any Regency seem to have been established, although I have no doubt Ibrahim Didi exercises practically supreme power in the Islands.

7. At the same time these transactions bring into clearer light the extremely indefinite nature of the relations between Ceylon and the Maldives. From a time anterior to any existing records the people of the Maldives appear to have recognized the supremacy of Ceylon, and the suzerainty of the Sinhalese Kings, which was acknowledged by the Maldivians, has been held by them to devolve on the subsequent rulers of Ceylon, the Dutch and the English. The Maldivians have not the least disposition to question their dependence on Ceylon, and in addition to the annual mission bearing tribute from the Sultan, the recognition of the Ceylon Government is clearly looked upon as necessary to the establishment of the validity of the Sultan's title. At the same time there is no written instrument whatever on the subject of this protectorate, or any written treaties or engagements between the Sultan and ourselves. If, therefore, a foreign power were to enter into treaty relations with the Maldives and obtain the cession of a coaling station or naval depôt, I think we might find some difficulty in successfully denying the Sultan's right to enter into such engagements. That he should not enter into relations with foreign powers is, I take it, all that we desire to secure by our protectorate. We can, of course, have no wish to meddle in any way with the internal affairs of the Maldives, but the establishment there of a foreign power would be an inconvenience the occurrence of which it is desirable effectually to prevent.

8. I should be glad to learn the views and wishes of Her Majesty's Government on this subject. I believe that if, as is probable, some further inquiry is made into the indebtedness of the Maldivian Government, and an attempt made to arrange matters between it and its creditors, the traders, amicably and equitably, no difficulty would be experienced in obtaining from the Maldivian Government a formal recognition in writing of its dependence on the Government of Ceylon, an undertaking that each new Sultan should receive investiture from the Governor of Ceylon, and an acknowledgment of inability to enter into relations with any foreign power. This, if granted readily—as I have no doubt it would be, for it would simply be the reduction to a formal shape of assurances continually given in letters and speeches—would be an amply sufficient protection against the interference of any foreign power, and yet would not render necessary any interference on our part with the internal affairs of the Island.

9. In addition to Captain Lloyd's report, I enclose for your information copies of recent correspondence between this Government and the Maldivian authorities, and also of a letter which throws some light upon the pecuniary embarrassments which have clearly been the chief cause of the late troubles.

I have, &c.,

A. GORDON.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 4.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to Ibrahim Didi.

February 1, 1887.

I HAVE to inform our friend that disquieting news of disturbances in the Maldive Islands has reached us, and that it is stated that the Government of the country has been upset. I have also heard that some of the traders from Ceylon, who are British subjects, have been warned to leave the Maldive Islands, and that it is intended to give a monopoly of the trade to one particular firm.

I write, therefore, to ask our friend to send me, for the information of the Governor, a true account of everything that has happened. My friend will understand that it is a serious matter to upset the Government of a country which is under the exclusive protection of the Queen, exercised

* See No. 1.

† (1) To Ibrahim Didi, February 1, 1887 (see enclosure No. 1 in No. 4).
(2) From Ibrahim Didi, February 15, 1887 (see enclosure No. 2 in No. 4).
(3) From Ibrahim Didi, February 16, 1887 (see enclosure No. 3 in No. 4).
(4) To Ibrahim Didi, April 4, 1887 (see enclosure No. 4 in No. 4).
(5) Statements of two Envoys from the Sultan of the Maldive Islands (see enclosure No. 5 in No. 1).
(6) From the new Sultan, February 29, 1887 (see enclosure No. 6 in No. 4).
(7) To the late Sultan, March 30, 1887 (see enclosure No. 7 in No. 4).
(8) To the new Sultan, March 30, 1887 (see enclosure No. 8 in No. 4).
(9) From Carimjee Jafferjee, March 31, 1887 (see enclosure No. 9 in No. 4).
(10) Memorandum by Mr. A. M. Ashmore, March 31, 1887 (see enclosure No. 10 in No. 4).
(11) Memorandum by Sir O. C. Smith, April 1, 1887 (see enclosure No. 11 in No. 4).

by the Governor of this Colony, without at least at once reporting to the Governor that such steps have been taken and the reasons for them; and should the news to which I have adverted be true, a mission is no doubt now on its way here for that purpose. Our friend is also aware that it is an equally serious matter to interfere with legitimate trade carried on by British subjects, and it is hoped that the complaints which have been made to the Governor are without foundation.

With compliments to our friend, and requesting him to send a quick reply to this communication, for the matter is pressing.

I have, &c.,
C. C. SMITH.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 4.

Ibrahim Didi to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Malé in Maldives, February 15, 1887.

WITH MANY THOUSAND SALAAMS,—YOUR respected letter dated 1st February, 1887, reached me on the 8th February, the contents of which we understood.

We explain to our worshipful protector the truth of what has happened here. The cause of the abdication of the Sultan is as follows.

As the Sultan would not listen to the advice of the chiefs, some of the chiefs could no longer live there (Malé), and said that they must leave the Island owing to the hardships they had to undergo.

The Sultan hearing this resigned his throne of his own accord, notifying that he had ceased to retain power as Sultan, and left the palace for a private residence built by himself. The people gathered together and asked the Sultan why such a course had been taken. The Sultan explained to the people that if some of the chiefs were to leave the place he could not any longer retain the throne. He cared not for the wants of the people. He was quite indifferent to anything said by the chiefs, would not listen to nor take any notice of their requests, nor did he return to the palace. Seeing the Sultan's action, the people thought that he would not administer the Government any more. Therefore the inhabitants, with the consent of the *ex-Sultan*, nominated the present Sultan on the 18th December, 1886.

The present Sultan Muhammad Muin-ud-din is the grandson of the old deceased Sultan. We all expect to see the present Sultan reign with due propriety and justice.

It being proposed to raise a larger revenue at a meeting of ourselves and the few British subjects trading here, the following proposal was made:—To waive our claims to customs duties on imported goods and to obtain Rs. 100,000 yearly from the merchants in lieu thereof.

This we made known to all of them publicly and asked their consent, and further requested them to find the sum required jointly or otherwise. This they all refused to do, except one firm, which came forward and consented to the proposal, promising to communicate to his head firm and give an answer, and afterwards, if the suggestions were approved, to go to Colombo and make a proper agreement and continue trading. We have given four months' time to arrange the matter. We thought of informing you subsequently.

This took place on the 3rd January, 1887, and while we were waiting for an answer the other merchants, who are against this arrangement, did as they pleased.

While matters were in this state you heard something about this place. On the morning of the 3rd February, at half past 4 o'clock, all the merchant shops and some of the Maldivians' houses and other shops were burnt down, also the shops and houses belonging to this Government.

By this fire we sustained great loss. We heard that ten or twelve days previous to the burning of the houses the shopkeepers and others were removing their goods to other places by night. We also heard the people say that the houses were burnt down by the merchants themselves, as they took the precaution to remove their goods previously.

After this occurrence we and some others jointly made investigation as to how this happened, and were informed that some of the servants who were working in the godowns of one Mohamet Ally and of Ismailjee had set fire to the houses.

We informed Mohamet Ally of this in the presence of the witnesses who gave us the information, but did not question him, nor did he say anything. Mohamet Ally and other Bombay people will soon go to Colombo.

Hoping to hear from our worshipful protector of our safety.

A. I. DIDI.

Enclosure No. 3 in No. 4.

Ibrahim Didi to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Malé, Maldives, February 16, 1887.

MANY salutations to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary Sir Cecil C. Smith.

Your honour's letter dated 1st February was received on the 8th of that month, and its contents were read and understood. By the buggalow Gunja Padarat the Sultan has sent a letter through Muhammad Rana Bandari Kilukufani and Segu Muhammadu Naibu Tutu, and with it I, too, have sent a letter. I have also sent another letter through Taibu, the tindal of the buggalow, acknowledging the receipt of your honour's and asking for time to reply to it. These letters will reach you. In the letter addressed by your honour to me, your servant, it is said that I ought to have known that I should communicate, at least subsequently, what transpired here. I earnestly beg that I may be pardoned if any blame is attached to me for the delay in replying.

As I had no order or permission (from —) to write to a personage of your honour's position, I remained silent, though sorry, thinking that I am unworthy to write to you. With this explanation I trust your honour will extend to me your assistance and favour.

I am, &c.,
IBRAHIM DIDI (son of Ali Didi).

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Enclosure No. 4 in No. 4.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to Ibrahim Didi.

April 4, 1887.

I HAVE the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of my friend's letter of the 15th February relating to the abdication of the *ex*-Sultan and the election of his successor, together with information as to certain matters connected with the trade of the Maldivé Islands. My friend has fully explained matters of importance, and I have understood what he has written.

The Governor has replied to the letters of the Sultan and the *ex*-Sultan, and it does not become me to say anything in regard to the change in the Government of the country, except to add my best wishes for the prosperity of the country under its new Sultan.

But regarding the trade and the proposals that have been made in order to raise a larger revenue, I would point out to my friend that, although there may be some temporary benefit from creating the monopoly which it is proposed to establish, the inevitable result will in a few years be that the bulk of trade will diminish and the revenue of the country will seriously suffer.

Further, it must not be overlooked that should the foreign trade be placed in the hands of one firm, the ancient custom of the country by which the British subjects have for many years past had the privilege of carrying on their trading concerns on terms of equality one with another will be upset. Many complaints on this subject have recently been made to the Governor, who will look with great disfavour on any special trading privileges being granted to any British subject to the exclusion of other British subjects.

I write this solely in the interests of my friend's country, and in order to avoid difficulties and troubles occurring in the future, which may result in disastrous consequences. I have, however, learnt about the reasons for desiring to change the present system of trade, and I will write you at a later date on the subject. I send my best compliments to my friend.

C. C. SMITH.

Enclosure No. 5 in No. 4.

STATEMENTS of two Envoys from the Sultan of the Maldivé Islands.

March 26, 1887.

SEGU MUHAMMADU NAIBU TUTTU, Clerk under the Judge, selected by the Sultans, Ibrahim Didi, and all the people to come over to Ceylon.

I HAVE only to do with writing work, and know nothing about the trade. I only heard that some correspondence was going on between I. Didi and the Bombay merchants on the subject.

March 30, 1887.

MUHAMMAD (Rana Bandari Kilukufani*) of the Order of Didi.

Through the Bombay merchants trading all the year round the Government and people have all become very poor.

The Government wish to revert to the old system of trade, under which trade was only carried on for four months in the year, February to May. If trade with the Bombay merchants goes on all the year, the natives "have no room to trade," internally and externally.

The system was changed about twenty years ago

The Government wishes to stop the present system until the Government is clear of debt. It is heavily indebted to the Bombay merchants. The debts amount to over Rs. 50,000 by the Government. The greater part is due to Carimjee Jafferjee & Co. It does not matter who has the monopoly. It was only proposed to give it to Carimjee Jafferjee & Co., because they only offered to give Rs. 100,000 for the customs revenue.

So soon as Carimjee Jafferjee & Co. are paid off the old system will be reverted to as regards trade.

The customs now produce about Rs. 30,000 a year. Carimjee Jafferjee & Co. would make their profit by trading all the year round, the other Bombay merchants only trading for four months. Nothing has yet been settled. In my own opinion, if all the Bombay merchants would agree to subscribe the money required and to trade on the proposed terms, it would be the best course. Afterwards to revert to the old system.

The system of trade between the Government and the Bombay merchants is one of credit, settled by the payment of yearly instalments out of the revenue.

The Bombay merchants are now pressing for their debts. Carimjee Jafferjee & Co. have been trading for the longest time, and the greater portion of the Government debt is due to them. They are pressing for payment. At the present rate there is no hope of paying off the debt. The revenue is far short of the amount of the debts. The only object the Government has in desiring to change the system is to enable the debt to be paid off.

What the Government gets from the Bombay merchants are the necessaries of life, *i.e.*, rice, curry stuffs, stuffs, &c. In return we give the produce of the Islands. It is insufficient. The produce is fish (dried), cocoanuts, cowries, and coir. If the Bombay merchants were only allowed to trade for four months, the natives for the rest of the time would, as heretofore, trade with foreign countries. In past years twenty-eight guntiras (vessels) belonging to the natives traded with Ceylon, and now only four or five so trade. They bring produce here for the Bombay merchants. They used to bring their own goods and trade on their own account. Both Government and private vessels so traded.

The only request that I wish to make is that a decision may be come to that will tend to the benefit of the country. It is now very poor.

This is all I have to say. There are five Bombay firms trading with Malé.

C. C. SMITH.

March 30, 1887.

* Official appointment.

Enclosure No. 6 in No. 4.

His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G.

Malé, Maldives, February 29, 1887.

MANY thousand salaams from Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din to his gracious protector His Excellency the Governor at the rising capital of Colombo.

We beg that Your Excellency will protect us by extending to us the friendship and favour hitherto enjoyed (by us). When any misfortune befalls us we find ourselves utterly helpless without Your Excellency's favour and assistance. We saw the Captain of the man-of-war sent hither by Your Excellency, and from the Captain we understood that Your Excellency, in the exercise of your goodwill towards us, sent him to inquire into what had happened here with regard to ourselves, and we gave him all the information we could. We beg that our affairs may receive the same consideration and protection in the future as in the past.

Herewith we send a small present—a mat of this country make—and beg that it may be accepted, though it is too trifling and unworthy to be sent to a great personage like Your Excellency. Salaams.

SULTAN IBRAHIM NUR-UD-DIN ISKANDAR
(Son of Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din).

Enclosure No. 7 in No. 4.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G., to His Highness the late Sultan of the Maldives.

March 30, 1887.

WHILE I regret to hear that Your Highness has ceased to reign as Sultan of the Maldives, yet I am gratified to learn that the changes which have been made have been made with your consent.

Now that I am fully informed of all that has occurred, I have written to your successor His Highness the Sultan promising to continue to him and to his people the protection and countenance afforded to the former Sultans and to the people of the Maldives, and expressing satisfaction that the change was made peacefully and with your consent. Thanking Your Highness for your present, and hoping that Your Highness may have a long life.

A. H. GORDON.

Enclosure No. 8 in No. 4.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G., to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives.

March 30, 1887.

I HAVE had great pleasure and satisfaction in receiving the explanations that Your Highness has laid before me of the recent events in your dominions, and am gratified to learn that the changes which have been effected have been made peaceably and with the consent of the late Sultan and of the chiefs and people. Now that I know all that has taken place, and that the change made is with the consent and by the desire of the former Sultan, I have great pleasure and gratification in recognizing Your Highness as Sultan of the Maldives, and I shall continue to Your Highness and Your Highness's people the same protection which former Sultans have received from me and from former Governors of Ceylon. May Your Highness enjoy a long and prosperous reign.

A. H. GORDON.

Enclosure No. 9 in No. 4.

Carimjee Jafferjee to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colombo, March 31, 1887.

HONOURED SIR,—IN reference to the conversation I had with your Assistant Mr. Ashmore last evening, I beg to state the following for your information.

That I have lent money from time to time as well as goods, amounting together to the value of about Rs. 100,000 (one hundred thousand rupees), to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldivian Islands.

Your honour is also undoubtedly aware of the fire which recently took place in the Maldivian Islands, and in consequence thereof the whole of my stock-in-trade, together with every little trinket in my business place, were completely burnt by the said fire, and I have thereby sustained a heavy loss of about Rs. 85,000 (eighty-five thousand rupees).

Therefore I beg to leave this statement for your honour's entire discretion and judgment.

I beg, &c.,

per pro. CARIMJEE JAFFERJEE,

T. ESSAJEE.

Enclosure No. 10 in No. 4.

MEMORANDUM by Mr. A. M. Ashmore.

S. T. ABDULALLY says that in last October the debt was Rs. 60,000 roughly. Since that more may have been incurred, but does not know.

Cannot tell how much of the Rs. 60,000 was due by Sultan and how much by State. (I have pressed them, but they will not say.)

The import duties are 10 per cent. at Malé. There is no export duty.

Suggests that the State debt be paid in five annual instalments. He estimates the annual revenue of the Government of Malé at Rs. 100,000 a year. He says that the imports into the Maldivian Islands are about ten lacs of rupees worth, and that the Government takes a tithe.

The "money due by the nation" is due by individuals, not by the State. The so-called "money due by the Sultan" is the only State debt.

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I have explained to the people (there are three of them) that Government has nothing to do with what they call "money due by the nation."

They say they desire—

- (1) That the monopoly be not allowed.
- (2) That they be allowed to build secure houses, *i.e.*, of stone, &c., so as to guard their goods.
- (3) If they get (1) and (2) they can continue their business and recover their money of their own selves—they will keep up their business and recover gradually.

They have been much harassed, and have received four months' notice to quit.

March 31, 1887.

A. M. ASHMORE.

Enclosure No. 11 in No. 4.

MEMORANDUM by Sir C. C. Smith.

THESE papers (Carimjee Jafferjee's) give some idea of the indebtedness of the Government. The only suggestion that it occurs to me to make is that a Commissioner should be sent to Malé to make a full investigation into the claims, and to endeavour to make some sort of settlement. Doubtless the Bombay merchants have been squeezing the Government, and if so, they should be required to reduce their claims. It ought to be possible to arrange that whatever has to be paid shall be paid by instalments.

April 1, 1887.

C. C. SMITH.

No. 5.

The Right Hon. Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., M.P., G.C.M.G., to Governor the
Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G.

Ceylon.—No. 190.

Downing street, June 20, 1887.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 171 of the 25th of April last, enclosing a copy of a report recently addressed to you by Captain Rodney Lloyd of Her Majesty's ship Briton respecting certain recent occurrences in the Maldive Islands.

I have read Captain Lloyd's report with interest, and I enclose a copy of a somewhat fuller report of his visit to the Maldives made by Captain Lloyd to the Admiralty.

I agree with you that Captain Lloyd displayed good sense and judgment while making his inquiries into the state of affairs in the Islands.

With regard to the observations you offer relative to the indefinite relations that exist between Ceylon and the Maldives, I concur with you in the opinion that all that Her Majesty's Government desire to secure by a protectorate is that the Sultan should not enter into relations with foreign powers without their previous consent, but beyond that they can have no wish to meddle in any way in the internal affairs of the Islands.

I am not desirous that our protectorate should assume such a formal character as to call for the establishment of a Resident in the Islands, or necessitate our taking any more direct step in the conduct of the Government of the Islands, but you have my authority for proceeding in the manner indicated in the 8th paragraph of your despatch, with a view to obtaining from the Maldivian Government (i.) a formal recognition in writing of its dependence on the Government of Ceylon; (ii.) an undertaking that each new Sultan should receive investiture from the Governor of Ceylon; and (iii.) an acknowledgment of inability to enter into relations with any foreign power.

I have, &c.,

H. T. HOLLAND.

Enclosure in No. 5.

The Admiralty to the Colonial Office.

M 1,271.

Admiralty, June 2, 1887.

SIR.—I AM commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies copy of a letter from the Commanding Officer of H.M.S. Briton, dated the 24th February, respecting the state of affairs at Malé, Maldive Islands. A similar letter has been sent to the India Office.

I am, &c.,

EVAN MACGREGOR.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure in No. 5.

Captain R. M. Lloyd to Rear-Admiral Sir Frederick W. Richards, K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief.

H.M.S. Briton at sea,
Lat. 34° 3' N., long. 69° 59' E.,
February 24, 1887.

State of Affairs at Malé, Maldive Islands.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to report that in compliance with your orders I anchored at Malé, the Sultan's Island of the Maldive group, on the morning of the 21st instant, having also been requested by His Excellency Sir A. Gordon, Governor of Ceylon, to make certain inquiries as to the deposition of the Sultan, and the alleged disturbance of trade there (a report and original minutes of inquiry have been forwarded to His Excellency).

2. On arrival I was at once waited on by the (so-called) Regent or Prime Minister Ibrahim Didi, and after due inquiry as to the state of the Government I saluted the flag in the customary manner, which was at once returned.

3. In the afternoon I visited the Sultan Muhammad Nur-ud-din a young man of some twenty-five years of age, of a nervous and almost imbecile appearance, and evidently a mere puppet in the hands of his more astute relatives and advisers. He expressed a hope to preserve always the favour of Her Majesty.

4. The *ex-Sultan* was deposed on or about the 20th December, 1886, apparently by family arrangement, possibly under slight popular pressure, but without disturbance or bloodshed, and, as far as I could gather, without creating any great change in the mode of administration of the Government.

5. The Bombay traders, however, of whom there are the representatives of at least five well-to-do firms, besides other minor shopkeepers from Galle, &c., have been lately complaining of the exceptional treatment they have been receiving at the hands of Ibrahim Didi (so-called Regent), a man who lived for eight years in Galle, and who appears to have held some Consular position and to have exercised certain magisterial powers there. He is a relative of both the present and *ex-Sultan*, and has charge of the customs revenue, &c. The merchants say that he called them together and told them "that thirty years ago only one Bombay trader did business in the Maldives, and he came out and went with the favourable monsoon, but removed his unsold goods each time. Then a few years afterwards another came, but no permanent settlers were allowed, and at that time many of the Maldivians themselves had money and were well to do. Now there are many merchants, who stop three or four years at a time, his people have lost their money, are poor, and greatly in debt to these traders, and he proposed that they should all go away but one, and the others do their business through that one, and thus put things more on their original footing."

Another proposition was, that five principal traders should agree to pay a lump sum annually (one lac of rupees) in lieu of all taxes, customs dues (imposts), &c. To neither of these would the merchants agree, and in any case had referred the situation to their principals for instructions. Their goods arrived, but they were forbidden to discharge unless they came to some arrangement, and some of the vessels left. Meanwhile, strangely on a parallel with these differences, early in the morning of the 7th February the whole of the Bombay merchants' quarter, godowns, and boutiques (representing large sums of money) were burnt down. Ibrahim Didi, after inquiry by the Sultan's Council, laid the blame on the servants of a Bombay merchant who, it was stated, had previously removed his goods out of danger; but I could find no confirmation of or warrant for this charge, nor could I trace the perpetrators of the act. It was not an accident, and it is the third time within a recent period that a similar attempt has been made.

6. As suggested by Sir A. Gordon, I reminded the Regent as to his duties in the care and protection of British subjects, and warned him of the danger of interference with lawful commerce. He promised that there should be no recurrence of these difficulties, and that he would abide in all things by the decision of the Ceylon Government. So far, however, it has declined to interfere in the internal economy of these Islands.

7. The whole of the better class of the people, including the *ex-Sultan*, whom I visited, and who has a presence and intelligence far superior to his successor, expressed themselves most strongly in favour of a protectorate and active intervention by England in their affairs. They say the country is being ruined, the Government and the people are alike in debt, and unless their finances are regulated and worked by a strong hand they can do nothing. The levy of the customs dues certainly seems subject to the arbitrary ruling of the Regent, and is in most cases made in kind instead of money (one-twelfth seems to be the charge in rice and such bulky goods). The imports are large, and the export trade of well-made mats, dried boruta fish (the latter a very large industry), could scarcely fail to return a fair working revenue, and I am very strongly of opinion that our interference, if only in the adjustment of the finance of the country, would be a most popular step with these islanders, and a great boon both to them and ourselves. Sir A. Gordon, in his Confidential Minute, observed "that there is no disposition to extend the suzerainty of England," and I have taken care to keep this ruling in view during my inquiry, but I have submitted for his consideration that some mode of intervention more palpable than at present would be beneficial to both the Maldivians and ourselves.

8. The population of Malé seems considerable. It has good wide streets laid out at right angles, clean and white sanded, strong palm leaf fences on either side neat and well kept, and the compounds containing generally two or three huts were apparently arranged in an orderly and comfortable way, with generally a well of fresh water in each.

There was neither squalor, filth, nor disease apparent; the people seemed of good physique, well-nourished, and intelligent.

There are, however, large square tanks or baths at frequent intervals, which look stagnant and unhealthy, but I was told were frequently baled out.

The numerous well-filled cemeteries all about the town tell a tale of their own.

9. The natives are evidently born sailors; they have good serviceable boats, carvel-built as well as dug-outs, and know how to handle them. Their long double-banked canoes are roomy and fast. The paddles are shovel-shaped (drawing-room pattern).

10. There have been no shipwrecks here for at least three years, and there are no crews of vessels on the Islands.

11. I was lent a book in large pamphlet form by the Colombo Secretariat, entitled "The Maldives," by H. C. P. Bell, Esq., Ceylon Civil Service, which would, I submit, be useful for reference either on the East Indian Station or by the Intelligence Department at home.

I have, &c.,

RODNEY M. LLOYD,
Captain.

P.S.—The report forwarded to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon, as it was accompanied by the minutes of inquiry, differs entirely in its wording from the foregoing statement of affairs. The latter also contains some descriptive particulars with which the Ceylon Government were already acquainted.

R. M. L.

No. 6.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G., to Rear-Admiral Sir F. W. Richards, K.C.B.

Colombo, October 20, 1887.

SIR,—AS I understand that Your Excellency proposes to visit the Maldive Islands on your way here, and as you will no doubt have, while there, opportunities of conferring with His Highness the Sultan of these Islands, it is desirable that Your Excellency should be in possession of the fullest information as to the position of affairs there, and as to the views of this Government and of the Imperial Government respecting them.

I accordingly enclose for Your Excellency's perusal and return the original documents enumerated in the accompanying schedule. Some of these have already been seen by you, but I think it as well to return them, as, in the press of other business, many of the details will doubtless have escaped your memory.

You will see that since the date of Captain Lloyd's visit to Malé there have been fresh disturbances in the group; that Ibrahim Didi, who was said to have placed the present Sultan on the throne, has been disgraced and imprisoned; and that the complaints of British subjects trading in the islands have been renewed with increased importunity.

It is quite possible that while this disturbed condition of things continues to exist subjects of other European States may also have cause for complaint against the Maldivian Government, and that such complaints might lead to interference with the internal affairs of the Maldives on the part of such powers, which Her Majesty's Government would highly deprecate, and which would be inconsistent with that suzerainty over the Maldives of the possessors, for the time being, of the Island of Ceylon, which has from time immemorial been recognized and acknowledged, but which, it is believed, has never been reduced to writing.

It is therefore deemed desirable, as you will perceive from Sir H. Holland's despatch No. 190, that the new Sultan of the Maldives should explicitly declare his acknowledgment of the suzerainty and of his own inability to contract relations with any other authority than Great Britain as represented by the Ceylon Government.

I enclose a form which might properly be signed by the Sultan, and should it be in your power to induce His Highness to execute such an instrument, and should you be disposed to recommend him to do so during your presence in the Maldives, I need hardly say that I should feel very grateful to Your Excellency.

The alleged ill-treatment of British subjects and others more or less connected with Ceylon will no doubt engage your attention; but I fear that, if it be true that all the chief parties hostile to the proceedings complained of have been deported to other islands, it will be hardly possible for you to wait there till they can be sent for, while in their absence any investigation must necessarily be of a very incomplete and unsatisfactory character.

The embarrassed state of the Maldivian finances and the measures which appear to afford the best chance of the extrication of the Maldivian Government from its difficulties and from the grasp of probably unprincipled money lenders will also probably be deemed by you to be interesting subjects of inquiry. I agree with Captain Rodney Lloyd in thinking that an adjustment of the finances of the Islands is not only a desirable step, but would be a popular one, and it is certainly one in which the good offices of the protecting Power might be well and legitimately employed.

You will observe that one of the letters sent you purports to come from the *ex*-Sultan. In this letter he complains that his assent to the accession of the present Sultan was not, as stated orally to Captain Lloyd and in writing to me, voluntary. I should be glad if Your Excellency could ascertain whether this letter is authentic or a forgery.

I enclose a letter to the Sultan informing him that Your Excellency is authorized to speak in the name of the Government of Ceylon, and that any representation made by him to you, or any intimation made by you to him, is to be considered in exactly the same light as if made by or to myself.

I have, &c.,

A. GORDON.

P.S.—I have on the whole thought it better not to give too precise a form to the declaration which it is desired to obtain from the Sultan. Its exact wording may depend on many circumstances not cognizable by me at the moment, but which will be fully before Your Excellency.

The document should in any case contain in unequivocal terms—

- (1) A declaration that from ancient times the Maldives have been under the protection of the ruler of Ceylon; that the Maldivians look to his protection to ensure them from molestation by any other State;
- (2) An acknowledgment that the Sultan cannot negotiate with any other State except through Ceylon, and expressly renounces any pretension to do so; and
- (3) A request that, with a view to the prevention of all further disputes, he may receive investiture into the office of Sultan from the Government of Ceylon and an engagement that all his successors shall henceforth do the same. He might be, and I think should be, assured that his own investiture will be immediately granted.

Enclosure in No. 6.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G., to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives.

Queen's House,
Colombo, October 20, 1887.

To His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives.

WHEN this letter reaches Your Highness His Excellency Sir Frederick Richards, K.C.B., will be at Malé.

I advise and request your Highness to speak to the Admiral about your affairs as you would to me, and to listen to him as you would to the counsels of the Ceylon Government. What he promises

the Government of Ceylon will perform, what he directs that is my direction, what he advises is my advice also. Think that in him you hear the Government of Ceylon speaking.

I recommend you to consult him both as to the financial embarrassments of your Government and all the other troubles which have lately arisen in your Islands.

May Your Highness enjoy a long and prosperous reign.

A. GORDON.

No. 7.

His Excellency Rear-Admiral Sir F. Richards to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G.
 "Bacchante" at Sea,
 Lat. 3° 36' N., long. 77° 1' E.,
 October 31, 1887.

SIR,—ON my arrival at Malé on the 26th instant I received from Commander Forsyth of Her Majesty's ship *Algerine* your letter of the 20th instant, with original correspondence relative to the state of affairs at the Maldivé Islands, and I at once addressed myself to the points to which your Excellency invited my attention, and I have now the honour to inform you as follows:—

2. On the 27th instant at 11 A.M. I landed with my staff and other officers, and paid an official visit to Sultan Muhammad Muin-ud-din, when, after exchange of the customary compliments, I presented Your Excellency's letter to His Highness, with whom I had a long interview, during which I took the opportunity of impressing upon him the necessity for a formal acknowledgment of the Protectorate of the Sovereign of Great Britain and dependence on the Government of Ceylon. I further recommended him to address to Your Excellency a request for formal investiture as Sultan for himself and his successors.

3. His Highness replied that he understood the relations of the Sultan of the Maldives to the Government of Ceylon, and would like time to consult with his ministers and consider a form of address to Your Excellency on these subjects, if one was prepared for him; I therefore drafted for him the form of a letter to Your Excellency (copy enclosed), which was delivered to him in the afternoon.

4. With reference to the cases of Ibrahim Didi and others, His Highness informed me that there had been no fresh disturbance in the Islands, and that at present affairs were in a satisfactory state. On my inquiring whether Ibrahim and those said to have been concerned with him in the recent disturbance had received a proper trial, he informed me they had, and that it was they who had selected the islands to which they had been deported. I subsequently learnt that it had been the intention to banish them for a year before permitting their return to Malé. I enclose the names of the principal people banished and of the atolls on which they are said to be at present living. I was assured that they were being properly cared for, and that their lives were not in any danger.

5. His Highness appeared to be somewhat nervous, and spoke in a low tone through his Prime Minister (Mohammed Didi), precisely as described in the report of Captain Lloyd of the "Briton."

6. The following morning I landed with the officers of my staff and inspected the town, visiting the stores of all the British Indian and Ceylon traders, including that of Carimjee Jafferjee, and, singular to say, they all appeared to be contented with the present state of affairs. Before embarking I paid a visit to the *ex*-Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din, and there being at first no person in the room except members of his own household and the Government interpreter, my Secretary produced the letter purporting to have been written by him, which Your Excellency wished should be authenticated. It was quite evident by the way he looked at it that he had never seen the document before, but after some considerable hesitation he admitted that the letter had been written by his authority; that being ill himself he had authorized Ibrahim Didi to address Your Excellency in his name on the general subject of the unsettled state of the Government. Thus, Ibrahim Didi, the minister who was mainly instrumental in bringing about the deposition or abdication of Sultan Nur-ud-din in December, 1886, in August, 1887, writes in the name of Nur-ud-din to Your Excellency to enlist your sympathy with a view to his restoration. Ibrahim Didi's wife is sister to the *ex*-Sultan, and she and her child are now living in his house, where I saw them. From this it will be seen that affairs at the capital of the Maldives are somewhat mixed. Nur-ud-din informed me that he had no quarrel with his nephew, and that they were on visiting terms. I therefore recommended him to show to the people that he was a supporter of the present Government by accompanying His Highness when he visited me on board the Flagship. This, as will be seen, he did.

7. On the afternoon of the 28th the Sultan, being afraid of the weather, which had been very wet, sent his Vizier to make his excuses for not visiting me that day. I then appointed 11 A.M. on the 29th for His Highness's visit, saying that I trusted nothing would prevent his keeping the appointment. It rained hard at 11 o'clock, but, clearing up before noon, he embarked with all his ministers and came off in procession with four fine beautifully modelled boats of twenty rowers, each with a red flag in the bow, making a very good show. The *ex*-Sultan Nur-ud-din accompanied him in the leading boat. On arrival on board he was received by the officers and with guard and band, and when he had recovered from his first timidity he was very much more at his ease than at our first interview, and showed considerable intelligence and interest in the ship, over which he asked to be shown before he left. He presented me with a letter for Your Excellency (enclosed), which he informed me was an answer to a previous communication received by a country vessel, and he asked for more time to reply to your last and to consider the questions put before him by myself. On being asked how much time he wanted he first desired that the priest Tuttu, who had not accompanied the ministers to the cabin, might be sent for, and after consultation he finally said that on Tuesday, 1st November, the letters would be ready. I then informed His Highness that I should leave for Colombo in the morning, but that the "*Algerine*" would remain until Tuesday for his letters, which I expected would then be ready. I accordingly sailed yesterday morning, leaving the "*Algerine*" at the anchorage.

8. It is a difficult matter to arrive at an accurate conclusion relative to the cause of the recent vigorous proceedings of the Sultan's Government, but it seems to be tolerably clear that Ibrahim Didi,

not being satisfied with the results of the change which he was mainly instrumental in bringing about, was intriguing with a view to the dethronement of Muin-ud-din and the restoration of his uncle, and that this being discovered or suspected, a raid was made upon the whole of that branch of the Didi family and other known supporters of Ibrahim, resulting in their expulsion from Malé and isolation in different atolls.

9. I could find nothing to justify the plea that Ibrahim Didi was concerned in any way with the burning of the Sultan's storehouse or in any other incendiary acts, but there seems to be little doubt that he was an element of discord in the place, and that he had much better return to Galle if Sultan Muin-ud-din is to continue Sovereign of these Islands.

10. Not feeling satisfied as to what would be the result of the bringing back all these people to Malé in the absence of a ship of war, and not considering it to be within my province to assume any absolute authority in the matter, I confined myself to addressing a letter to His Highness in the terms of the enclosure No. 4.

11. Attached is a list of agents of trading firms who waited upon me, and all of whom expressed themselves as satisfied with the present state of affairs, and I received no complaint from any of the traders. It is clear that the majority are favourable to the banishment of Ibrahim, and they very probably had a share in bringing it about, he being known to be an advocate for granting a monopoly of trade and the farming of the revenues to a particular firm.

12. On the return of the "Algerine" to Colombo Your Excellency will be in a position to judge what line the young Sultan is likely to take under the advice of his present ministers, and to determine what further action (if any) may be necessary at present, and I beg to express my readiness to afford Your Excellency's Government all the assistance which the means at my disposal will admit of in placing affairs at the Maldives on a satisfactory basis.

I have, &c.,
FRED. W. RICHARDS,
Rear-Admiral.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 7.

His Excellency Rear-Admiral Sir F. W. Richards, K.C.B., to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldivé Islands.

Her Majesty's ship Bacchante, at Malé,
October 27, 1887.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I ENCLOSE for your consideration a draft of a letter to His Excellency Sir Arthur Gordon, G.C.M.G., Governor of Ceylon, embodying the points referring to the acknowledgment by Your Highness of the protection of the Sovereigns of England over the Maldivé Sultanate.

You will see that the letter contains nothing that has not been fully recognized by your predecessors and by yourself, and that there is no new matter in it.

The object of the writing is to prevent other nations who do not understand the relations existing between Ceylon and the Maldives from interfering in your affairs, or from any attempt to take possession of any of your atolls for coaling stations, or to molest you or your subjects in any way.

With respect to the financial state of your Government, about which we talked this morning, I recommend you to consult your ministers and to tell the Governor of Ceylon the whole story of your present situation.

I have, &c.,
FRED. W. RICHARDS,
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure No. 1.

His Highness the Sultan of the Maldivé Islands to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—WHEREAS (from the earliest times) the Sultans of the Maldivé Archipelago have been tributary to, and under the protection of, the Rulers of the Island of Ceylon, and whereas it is our annual custom to send a mission bearing tribute to the Government of Ceylon: Now I, Muhammad Muin-ud-din, Sultan of the Maldives, being impressed with the necessity that exists in these present times of placing this fact on record for the better ensuring my subjects and the territories under my dominion from molestation by any foreign State, do hereby acknowledge on behalf of myself, my heirs, and successors the authority of the Sovereign of Great Britain—as represented by the Government of Ceylon—over these Islands, and I further acknowledge that I am not at liberty to enter into any negotiations or treaty regarding them with any foreign State, except through the Ruler of Ceylon, and I expressly renounce any intention of doing so.

With the object of preventing future disputes among my people, I am further desirous of being formally installed in the office of Sultan of the Maldivé Islands by the Government of Ceylon, and I request that Your Excellency will cause the necessary arrangements for my formal investiture to be made accordingly at an early date, and that this course may in future be considered a necessary ceremonial for the installation of my successors as Sultans of these Islands.

I beg to assure Your Excellency that I am ready to enter into any more formal agreement embodying the terms of this declaration should you desire it.

Given under my hand at the Palace of Malé this ———.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 7.

Names of the Ministers of Sultan Muin-ud-din, Maldivé Islands.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Mohammed Didi (Arranna Bandari
Kilukufani). | 3. Ali (Foandari Takurufaan). |
| 2. Hassen Didi (Foandari Kilukufani). | 4. Omar Dahara (Takurufaan). |
| | 5. Priest : Tattu Didi. |

Enclosure No. 3 in No. 7.

List of the principal People banished, with the Names of the Atolls on which they are said to be now living.

Ibrahim Didi	... Addu Atoll (the south- ern group).	Sidi	... Adu Mati Atoll.
Hassen Didi	... Miladu Madu Atoll.	Manipul	... Hura Nillandu Atoll.
Ismail Didi	... Tilladu Mati Atoll.	Dohri Manipul	... Ari Atoll.

Enclosure No. 4 in No. 7.

His Excellency Rear-Admiral Sir F. W. Richards, K.C.B., to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives.

Her Majesty's ship Bacchante, at Malé,
October 29, 1887.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—AT the interview I had with you on Thursday, the 27th instant, you informed me that after a proper and lawful trial certain persons, amongst whom was your late Minister Ibrahim Didi, had been found guilty of an offence against your Government, and that they had been banished to various atolls in Your Highness's dominions; that they were properly provided with the necessaries of life; and that after a short time they would be pardoned and restored to Malé.

Without questioning the right of Your Highness to punish offences against the State, or wishing to interfere in any way with your authority, I am writing this to impress upon you that the lives of these men not having been forfeited by their acts, Your Highness should be particularly careful that they are properly treated and looked after, that they may return to their homes in good health, and that no harm comes to them.

I wish also to impress upon Your Highness that British subjects and foreigners carrying on lawful trade in your dominions are to be protected, and that should you have any cause of complaint against them, or consider they are unjust in their dealings with your subjects or yourself, you should make the circumstances fully known to the Governor of Ceylon and ask for his interference, and I distinctly advise Your Highness not to give a monopoly of trade to any particular trader, whether from Ceylon or India, or anywhere else, as your doing so would surely give rise to intrigues and difficulty. All should be treated alike as regards fairly chargeable customs dues, and all should receive equal protection from Your Highness.

I have, &c.,

FRED. W. RICHARDS,
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure No. 5 in No. 7.

List of Bombay, Calcutta, and Ceylon Traders at Malé, Maldive Islands.

1. Jevunjie Noorbhai.*	5. Moos Bey Mohammed Bey.‡
2. Segu Thaib Abdul Ali.	6. Ibrahimjee Walijee.§
3. Ismailjie Ganijee.†	7. Carimjee Mamoojee.
4. Ali Bey Isajee.	

Of the above, those marked are representatives of the petitioners referred to in letters of Under-Secretary to Government of India No. 736 of April 3, 1887.

No. 8.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G., to Rear-Admiral Sir F. W. Richards, K.C.B.

November 24, 1887.

SIR,—WITH reference to Your Excellency's letter of the 31st October, I have the honour to enclose for Your Excellency's information a translation of the letter from the Sultan of the Maldives brought to me by Your Excellency, and also one of that subsequently brought to me by Commander Forsyth, R.N., of H.M.S. Algerine.

I, at the same time, have the honour to return the original letter of the Sultan to yourself which you were good enough personally to hand to me, and I add a translation which I have caused to be made of that letter.

I have, &c.,

A. GORDON.

* Agent of Sheikh Treh Abdul Ally of Calcutta.

† Agent of Gorlam Hasseim Adrimjee.

‡ Agent of Moosabhoj Sheik Hiptoola Allahboj of Calcutta.

§ Agent of Ibrahimjee Walijee.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 8.

His Highness the Sultan of the Maldive Islands to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G.

Translation.

Dated the 14th day of Sapar, 1305 A.H., corresponding to the 1st of November, 1887 A.D.
From Muhammad Muin-ud-din, Sultan of the Maldive Islands, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

A FRIENDLY relation and interchange of presents having existed for a long time between Your Excellency's Government and ourselves, and our friendship and attachment having also increased, we beg to inform Your Excellency that we write this letter with a desire to enter into an agreement with Your Excellency's Government on the following conditions:—

1. That there be an annual interchange of presents, as usual, between both parties.
2. That we be protected by your Government through the Governor of Ceylon, so that no enemy may do us harm.
3. That we be allowed to have our own laws in the administration of our Government.
4. That we adhere to no other power but the English.
5. That Your Excellency's Government do nothing in our Islands without our consent and contrary to custom.

We beg that Your Excellency's Government would keep these conditions of agreement registered so as not to be lost or forgotten, and request that a counter agreement may be sent to us under seal.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 8.

His Highness the Sultan of the Maldive Islands to Rear-Admiral Sir F. W. Richards, K.C.B.

Translation.

WE beg to inform Your Excellency that on reading the translation of the letter sent through Your Excellency by the Governor of Ceylon we understood therefrom that we could as well treat with Your Excellency as we would with the Governor. We therefore earnestly beg Your Excellency that the friendship which has existed hitherto between us from the times of our predecessors may not be weakened or interrupted, and that we may always be sheltered under the shade of the tree of your protection. In the observance of the laws of our Government, the rites of our religion, and the customs relating to the inhabitants and the foreigners in this place, we beg Your Excellency will help us to retain the practice hitherto observed. Your Excellency suggested to us the desirability of an agreement between us on certain terms. As the majority of us are of opinion that some of the terms proposed should be omitted; and as the agreement is on a subject of such importance that we cannot accede to it without due consultation, we have delayed its execution, and beg that Your Excellency will be pleased to grant us a few days' time within which we shall send it to the Governor, to whom we now write informing His Excellency of this. This is all that we seek from Your Excellency. If there is any further instruction to be given us we shall incline our ear thereto and follow it.

The debts due to foreigners by our Government now amount to one hundred thousand and odd rupees, and we shall in compliance with Your Excellency's request give a detailed account of them to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

Dated the 11th day of Sapar, 1305 A.H.

SALAAMS.

No. 9.

Lieutenant A. C. Christopher to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G.

Colombo, December 22, 1887.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to state I arrived at Malé in H.M.S. *Algerine* on the 14th instant, and duly delivered Your Excellency's letter to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives that afternoon.

His Highness stated that the reply, which I forward herewith, would be ready on the 17th instant, and on the morning of that day it was handed to me.

The letter is not in Arabic, as the previous communications from the Sultan, the Moonshee hitherto resident at the Court being no longer there, having, I was told, incurred His Highness's displeasure.

On learning this I recommended that the letter should be written in Maldivian, but although this language in one form or another is spoken throughout the Islands, neither the Sultan nor any one of his ministers can write it. His Highness therefore urgently requested that I would take a reply in English, as in default of Arabic he said he would have "no confidence" (*sic*) in signing a letter written in any other language.

Although I should have preferred to receive a letter written in Arabic or Maldivian, and plainly and repeatedly intimated my wish to that effect, I did not feel myself at liberty to refuse to receive a letter written in English. This letter was almost a transcript of that drafted by Sir F. Richards, and I was aware that every word and syllable of it was fully understood, and had been thoroughly discussed by His Highness and his ministers. It did not appear to me that in these circumstances I could with propriety offer further opposition to His Highness's persistent wish on the subject.

I have little reason to doubt that the Sultan would have signed the letter drafted by Sir F. Richards or written a letter of similar purport after the Admiral's visit but for the powerful influence of the Moolah and the advice of a Bombay trader.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED C. CHRISTOPHER,
Lieutenant, Seaforth Highlanders, A.D.C.

Enclosure in No. 9.

His Highness the Sultan of the Maldive Islands to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G.

WHEREAS it has been customary for a long time with the Sultans of the Maldive Islands to pay tribute to the English Government of Ceylon; and whereas the Government of the former has been under the protection of the Governor of Ceylon, we too are paying tribute annually to the Government of Ceylon:

Now we, Sultan Muhammadu Muin-ud-din, beg that the English Government, through the Governor of Ceylon, may protect us, our Islands, and their inhabitants, as also our successors, from the molestation of foreign powers, and have this filed of record.

Further, we firmly promise that we will not enter into an agreement with any of the other Powers but the English, and will not be friendly with them.

We beg also that the Sultans of the Maldive Islands may be protected from internal difficulties by the English Government of Ceylon.

We beg further of the Government of Ceylon that we may be recognized as the Sultan of the Maldive Islands and installed as such, and that our successors may be similarly dealt with.

We are prepared to add any further terms to this agreement if the Government of Ceylon should desire it.

Written at our Palace at Malé on the 16th of December, 1887.

No. 10.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G., to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives.

SIR,—I AM informed that owing to some difficulty in making use of the services of Your Highness's usual Arabic scribe Your Highness preferred to address to me your last letter in the English language.

2. It is agreeable to me to receive a letter from Your Highness written in any language, but as it would be more satisfactory to me that the important letter addressed to me by Your Highness on the 16th instant should be in the language in which Your Highness's letters are usually written, I send you a good Arabic translation of that letter in order that, should you still be unfortunately deprived of the services of your Arabic scribe, you may be able to furnish me with a letter sealed by you, and written in the same language as the other letters I have received from you.

May Your Highness enjoy a long and prosperous reign.

A. GORDON.

No. 11.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir H. T. Holland, Bart, G.C.M.G., M.P.

Miscellaneous.—No. 529.

Queen's House, Colombo,
Ceylon, December 23, 1887.

SIR,—WITH reference to your despatch No. 190 of 20th June last, I have the honour to transmit copies of further documents noted below,* relative to the state of affairs at the Maldive Islands, and to state that I shall address you fully on the subject shortly when I have received the further communication from the Sultan referred to by Sir F. Richards.

I have, &c.,

A. GORDON.

No. 12.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir H. T. Holland, Bart, G.C.M.G., M.P.

Miscellaneous.—No. 2.

The Pavilion, Kandy,
Ceylon, January 4, 1888.

SIR,—IN continuation of my despatch No. 529 of the 23rd ultimo, I have now the honour to enclose the copy of a letter from the Sultan of the Maldives,† couched in the terms suggested to him by Rear-Admiral Sir F. Richards, and in which he formally recognizes for himself and his successors the relation of dependence in which he stands to the Government of Ceylon.

2. The fears of an influential Moolah, and perhaps of the Sultan himself, coupled with the bad advice of a Bombay trader, hostile to British rule resident at Malé, induced the Sultan in the first instance to address to me an evasive letter, in which the suzerainty of the Queen was by no means clearly recognized.

3. Her Majesty's ship *Algerine* having been kindly placed at my disposal for the purpose by Sir F. Richards, I thought it expedient in the circumstances to despatch my Aide-de-Camp Lieutenant Christopher, Seaforth Highlanders, to Malé, to point out to the Sultan that a less equivocal reply was looked for from him.

4. I enclose a copy of Lieutenant Christopher's report‡ of his mission, which has proved wholly successful.

* Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G., to Rear-Admiral Sir F. W. Richards, October 20, 1887 (see No. 6); Rear-Admiral Sir F. W. Richards to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G., October 31, 1887 (see No. 7); and Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G., to Rear-Admiral Sir F. W. Richards, November 24, 1887, with enclosures (see No. 8).

† His Highness the Sultan of the Maldive Islands to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G. (see enclosure in No. 9).

‡ Lieutenant A. C. Christopher to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G. (see No. 9).

5. As the Sultan was manifestly apprehensive that there was some design to exercise the powers of the Suzerain in a more active manner than has hitherto been the case, and as I was aware that Her Majesty's Government had no wish to interfere in the internal affairs of the Archipelago, or to exact from the Sultan more than a recognition of suzerainty, precluding his entering into relation with any other Power, I thought myself justified in sending to him a reassuring letter,* of which I have also the honour to enclose a copy.

I have, &c.,

A. GORDON.

No. 13.

The Right Hon. Sir H. T. Holland, Bart, G.C.M.G., M.P., to Governor the Hon.
Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G.

Ceylon.—No. 52.

Downing street,
February 15, 1888.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches No. 529 of the 23rd of December and No. 2 of the 4th of January, relative to the state of affairs in the Maldivé Islands, and I have to convey to you my sense of the satisfactory manner in which you have adjusted the relations between the ruler of the Maldives and the Government of Ceylon.

2. Lieutenant Christopher deserves much credit for the way in which he executed his mission, and the ready assistance given by Admiral Richards and his officers has been very gratifying.

I have, &c.,

H. T. HOLLAND.

No. 14.

Commander G. K. Hall to Rear-Admiral Sir F. W. Richards, K.C.B.

No. 20.

H.M.S. Penguin at Sea
lat. 3° 1' N., long. 72° 3' E.
March 12, 1888.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to report that on my arrival at Malé in Her Majesty's ship under my command at 11 A.M., 10th March, I was boarded by the Captain of the Port and a Sultan's Wazir, whom I requested to inform His Highness the Sultan that, if agreeable, I would come ashore and pay my respects at 4 P.M.

2. At 2 P.M. I proceeded ashore with Mr. Millet, clerk, and went to the Cutchery, taking a ward-room servant with me to act as interpreter. I waited at the Cutchery nearly two hours, but failed to see any of the ministers, though repeatedly asking if any of them were likely to come, and getting only evasive answers, such as one being sick, another away, &c., and finally not receiving any answer from the Sultan, excuses being made that he was sick, though I found out afterwards he was quite well; and suspecting my messages had not been delivered, I determined to go to the palace. I am of opinion that the Sultan's ministers at first were under the impression that, on account of my making inquiries after Ibrahim Didi on my being boarded I had come to interfere on his behalf.

3. I proceeded to the palace, and after waiting some time I obtained an interview with the Sultan, who looked remarkably well, but evidently only a figure-head and a puppet in the hands of his ministers. He looked an indolent shy young man. His ministers stood by him during the interview.

4. I paid the usual compliments and gave him the messages His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon desired me to deliver, during which a Vizier whispered into the Sultan's ear, and he retired after wishing me good-bye.

5. I then proceeded to the Cutchery with the ministers and had a lengthened interview with them and was informed that the Sultan and his ministers are well content with the treaty, but not having any one to translate the English copy, the Sultan wrote to His Excellency the Governor saying they did not understand it (the Government interpreter having returned to Ceylon in the "Algerine"). The Arabic translation they are quite satisfied with. I took especial care to elicit this fact from the Sultan and his ministers.

6. I expressed to the ministers His Excellency the Governor's desire that those still in exile should be well treated and get sufficient food.

7. I then proceeded to Ibrahim Didi's residence, followed by a visit to the *ex*-Sultan, and I also had an interview with all the traders. Ibrahim Didi, who has been back at Malé about three months, complained that he was not allowed to depart for Colombo. On mentioning this to Mohammed Didi, Prime Minister (his nephew), he said he might go whenever he liked to send in a request to depart. Ibrahim Didi came off to see me at 10 P.M. and expressed a fear that he might be treated badly and not allowed to go away after my departure, so, as a precautionary measure, I wrote a letter (copy enclosed) to His Highness the Sultan. Ibrahim Didi is anxious that an English Agent should come for a month or two and put things straight, especially with regard to money matters.

8. The *ex*-Sultan Nur-ud-din had nothing to complain of. Ibrahim Didi acted as interpreter in this case.

9. The traders, a list of whom I enclose, expressed themselves satisfied with everything; none of them can speak English.

10. No political changes of moment have taken place, Mohammed Didi being still Prime Minister. Enclosed is a list of the ministers. Most of the exiles have returned. The ministers state that the exiles are well treated, but Ibrahim Didi and others state the reverse. Hassen Didi is still an exile, and is ill from previous bad treatment. My own impression is that they are not well treated.

11. After weighing the many conflicting statements I take the following to be the state of affairs. Everything is quiet. The Sultan is merely a puppet in the hands of his ministers; Mohammed Didi, the present Prime Minister, really ruling.

* Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G., to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives (see No. 10).

Financial matters are not in a very flourishing condition, though I do not suppose they are much worse than when Ibrahim Didi was Prime Minister.

The present Government are too strong for Ibrahim Didi, who I believe has a party in the Island, and means ultimately to regain power if possible. He seemed on very friendly terms with all the traders.

Some of the exiles, including Hassen Didi and others of the Didi family, are still banished, and I expect to find their food supply at times precarious.

For the present I believe affairs will remain quiet, and I am of opinion that it would be advisable to send a Government Agent down, accompanied by an interpreter, to inquire into financial matters and affairs generally, especially in view of any intrigues that might take place with other Powers (see my letter No. 19 of this date). I found the want of a good interpreter a great drawback, no one in the Island speaking English, excepting Ibrahim Didi, who was naturally loth to act as one.

12. A curious rumour seems prevalent at Malé, brought by traders from Ceylon, viz., that the Russians were shortly going to take Ceylon from the English. I gave the lie to this rumour.

13. It may be of interest to remark that the marriage customs in these Islands are peculiar. A man when tired of his wife puts her away and marries another, she also finding a new husband, some marrying in turn a dozen men. The Sultan has put away several, this being his fourth wife.

14. The Island of Malé contains 2,148 people. There is a good [? deal] of sickness and no doctor. Supplies of eggs and ducks can be obtained in small quantities.

I have, &c.,

G. KING HALL,
Commander.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 14.

Commander G. King Hall to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives.

I HAVE written to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon and stated the result of my interview with your Government, and that they declare the exiles are well treated and fed: and that you have no objection to letting Ibrahim Didi depart from Ceylon.

I trust Your Highness will allow him to depart in the Bombay trader sailing in a few days from this port.

H.M.S. Penguin at Malé.
March 10, 1888.

G. KING HALL,
Commander.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 14.

A List of the Principal Native Traders at Malé, Maldives.

1. Jeevunjie Noorbhai.*
2. Segu Thsib Abdul Ali.*
3. Ismailjee Ganijee.
4. Ali Bey Isajee.
5. Moos Bey Mohammed Bey.
6. Ibrahimjee Walijee.
7. Carimjee Mamojee.*

March 12, 1888.

G. KING HALL,
Commander.

Enclosure No. 3 in No. 14.

List of the present Ministry of the Sultan of the Maldives.

1. Mohammed Didi, Rana Bandari (Prime Minister). Kilukufani.
2. Ismail Mannick, High Priest.
3. Naibu Tuttu, Second Priest.
4. Hassen Didi, Foandari Kilukufani.

March 12, 1888.

G. KING HALL,
Commander.

No. 15.

Ibrahim Didi to His Excellency the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Ceylon, with the Dependencies thereof.

WITH due submission I beg to lay the following statement of my case before Your Excellency. About eight years ago I left the Maldives and settled at Galle as a domiciled British subject. Subsequently I was appointed by the Sultan of Turkey Consul to the Ottoman Empire, and honoured by the Ceylon Government with a Commission as Justice of the Peace.

In 1883 I received information from Malé that the old Sultan, Muhammad Imal-ud-din, had died, and that his son (the present *ex-Sultan* Ibrahim Nur-ud-din) had succeeded to the throne.

According to Maldivian custom, I returned to the Islands to pay my respects to the new Sultan. At the time of my arrival at Malé Mr. Morrison was there negotiating for permission to establish a coal depôt on the group. His Highness the Sultan and all the chiefs earnestly begged me to go to Colombo and desire Your Excellency not to permit what Mr. Morrison asked for. I told the Sultan that I had come for no other purpose than to pay my respects to His Highness, and that I was unwilling to undertake the responsibility of the mission. His Highness the Sultan, the chiefs, and the inhabitants jointly and severally continued to implore me to go to Colombo and interview the Governor of Ceylon in the matter, urging that, as the son of their highest official, and from my fair knowledge of English and my experience in Ceylon, that I alone could help them. With great reluctance I at length undertook to go, and appeared before Your Excellency.

At the interview I stated all the circumstances respecting the coal depôt. Your Excellency kindly acceded to our request and gave me a letter for His Highness the Sultan approving the proposal to establish the coal depôt on the Maldives.

* Same person (or) agent.

I forwarded the reply of Your Excellency to His Highness the Sultan, and remained at Galle. Shortly afterwards I received several letters from Malé inviting me to go back. Accordingly I returned in 1884, intending to get back to Galle after a stay of three months. Hearing of my preparations to start for Galle, His Highness the Sultan, the chief men, and the people generally requested me not to leave the Islands. They said that if I quitted the place there would be no one to properly advise His Highness the Sultan, and that there were many urgent matters to be attended to, such as the important ceremony of installing the Sultan on the throne and the difficulties connected with the heavy debt of the Government and measures for the improvement of the country. I urged that I had much business of my own in Ceylon, and that I could not stay without serious inconvenience and loss.

For three days my decision was discussed by the Council, and at length I was made to understand that I was considered to take no interest whatever in the Islands. Pained at this, I made up my mind to stay as a matter of duty, and from my respect and affection towards His Highness the Sultan, for the welfare of my native Islands has always been near my heart. I am closely related to His Highness the Sultan, and I could not refuse his request.

I was thereupon entrusted with the financial and all other important business of the Maldivé Government. In assuming charge I soon found that great care and economy must be exercised in order to settle the large State debt. I informed the chiefs and promised to do my best to relieve the Government from its liabilities. The expenditure had exceeded the revenue, and the debt had increased yearly.

I saw that endeavours must be made to collect a larger revenue, as otherwise the Government would soon be in an insolvent condition; moreover, that several improvements were needed urgently, and above all that the poorer inhabitants, who were nearly starving on several islands where there is no fishing, and coconuts are scarce in some years, must be fed. This partial famine I had been a witness of four or five times; no notice had been taken by Government, and many deaths had occurred, and yet the Government continued to draw a tax from the islanders beyond their power to pay.

I explained all the circumstances to His Highness the Sultan and to the chiefs, and they unanimously assented to my views.

Preparations commenced to instal the Sultan on the throne, but as there were insufficient funds to meet the expenses I was obliged to defray large sums of money for the purpose from my private estate.

Some time after differences gradually arose between the chiefs. Ultimately Sultan Nur-ud-din decided to abdicate, and his nephew, Muhammad Muin-ud-din, is now acting as Sultan, with the approval of the Ceylon Government. Since the present Sultan succeeded his uncle the country has never been really composed, and the inhabitants would welcome the old *regime* as preferable to the present disquietude and uncertainty.

I asked to be relieved of my official post as I wanted to get back to Galle. I had incurred large sums of money on account of the Government, and desired to be reimbursed the amount. I received no reply, but gained thereby more enemies. They have since taken over my duties as Bodu Bandari, or Treasurer and Collector, but made no sort of settlement of the sums due to me.

About this time I was honoured by being commissioned to make for the Indo-Colonial Exhibition a collection of Maldivé products and manufactures. I did my best to satisfy the Exhibition Committee. Some of the chiefs grew jealous of my receiving letters from the Ceylon Government and of my sending things to the Exhibition, and of my receiving a medal and diploma in return. They said that I was giving all information to His Excellency the Governor respecting the Maldives in order to ruin the Islands. Seeing this jealousy and ill-feeling increasing I prepared to start for Ceylon. It was then that the troubles occurred which have proved so disastrous to me, ruining me in both credit and property.

One of the Government houses was burnt down, and it was alleged that I got it burnt. Mohammed Didi, Rana Bandari, and Naibu Tutu, a priest, and another chief Muaru collected persons and sent them to my house with the permission of the present Sultan (who is young and easily biassed) to plunder. They took away most of my property. They came armed, and broke open my boxes, destroyed the furniture, and removed everything of value. Thereby I have sustained very heavy loss; my wife's property also was seized. Subsequently they took me and other chiefs and ill-treated us terribly. My wife and child were very ill at the time. We were all obliged to go to the *ex-Sultan's* house for protection. The chiefs opposed to me went to the *ex-Sultan's* house and demanded that His Highness should hand me over to them. As the *ex-Sultan* hesitated to deliver me over, fearing the consequence, they threatened His Highness even until he was forced to yield.

They then took me to the Customs House and hoisted me by the hands in presence of all the people, and maltreated me most cruelly. Another chief, Malinge Hassen Didi, a stout man, was still more brutally treated. I was well-nigh starved for more than two days, and detained in the same house for twenty days. Other chiefs were also cruelly used; Malinge Hassen Didi has been very ill from the effects of the ill-usage he received.

I was then banished to the most southern atoll, Addu, and other chiefs to various other atolls. I was at Addu atoll for two months and fifteen days. Your Excellency mercifully sent the Admiral to the Maldives, and he kindly conveyed Your Excellency's order to have all the exiles brought back to Malé. I was accordingly brought back to Malé, but in spite of Your Excellency's positive order, only three of the other chiefs banished have been recalled.

The day that I arrived at Malé Captain Christopher and Abdul Carim, Mudaliyar, also came in Her Majesty's gunboat "Algerine." Captain Christopher went on shore with Abdul Carim, Mudaliyar, and asked for the letter that had been given by the Admiral to the Sultan. The chiefs in power and His Highness the young Sultan said that there was no one able to write in the Arabic language at that time (which was not true, and merely said to gain time and shirk the responsibility of signing the Arabic letter), and informed Captain Christopher that they understood the meaning of the letter through the interpretation of Abdul Carim, Mudaliyar. The letter was written in English, and the Sultan consented to sign it; he knew its contents because it was so fully explained by Abdul Carim, Mudaliyar.

Before signing the letter, however, His Highness the young Sultan and the other Viziers came and consulted His Highness the *ex-Sultan* and myself respecting the terms. We both immediately

urged them not to hold back, but to sign and deliver it over at once. At the time the letter was delivered to Captain Christopher and Abdul Carim, Mudaliyar, by the Sultan I was present with the Sultan and all the chiefs then at Malé. Captain Christopher asked them whether they understood the contents of the letter, and they said that they did, and then handed the letter over to Captain Christopher.

After receiving the letter Captain Christopher inquired of His Highness the young Sultan whether the order given by the Admiral to send for all the exiles had been carried out, and said that their property must be restored them. Captain Christopher directed that all my property was to be given back to me.

The Sultan and other chiefs fully assented at the time, but up to this moment nothing whatever has been done.

I wanted to start for Ceylon the next day, but they prevented me from coming. A few days after Her Majesty's gunboat "Penguin" called at Malé, and I informed the Captain that I was not allowed to go and lay my grievances before Your Excellency.

The Captain saw the Sultan and obtained permission for me to leave for Ceylon. But after the gunboat sailed I was again prevented from starting. I then told them I would inform Your Excellency of everything. At length they allowed me to go, but with great reluctance.

I reached Colombo on the 26th March last, only to find that Your Excellency had proceeded to England.

I have been anxiously awaiting Your Excellency's return, feeling sure of obtaining at Your Excellency's hands that justice which my case and that of the other chiefs similarly wronged cries for.

On behalf of all the Maldivé chiefs who have suffered with myself I humbly entreat Your Excellency to cause a full inquiry to be held at Malé into the charges brought against us, falsely and maliciously, by a small but powerful faction of ill-disposed chiefs, in order that our characters may be properly cleared.

We have been subjected to torture, banishment, loss of position and property, and we desire the most searching investigation in the presence of all parties.

We beg that Your Excellency will be graciously pleased to appoint a Commission of one or two European gentlemen to proceed to Malé and hold an inquiry there into this matter, and also into the present condition of the Islands and the feeling of the inhabitants.

I venture to append for Your Excellency's information some brief notes (B) explaining exactly how matters stand at the Maldives, and I beg most earnestly before the Islands become further impoverished and unsettled that Your Excellency will mercifully take steps to preserve my country from the ruin which must fall on it sooner or later unless the Ceylon Government aids in securing a better administration, and by developing the resources of the Maldives.

In conclusion, I again implore Your Excellency to have compassion on us, and to have our wrongs inquired into and justice done us by the restitution of our position and property.

I beg to assure Your Excellency that otherwise it will be quite impossible for us to live in safety at the Maldives owing to the evil designs of our enemies.

A statement of my losses at the hands of the Maldivé Government is also annexed (A). It is in no way exaggerated.

Colombo, August 2, 1888.

I am, &c.,

A. IBRAHIM DIDI.

Annexure A.

	Rs.
1. When my father Ali Didi was in charge of the revenue duties at Malé I managed for him and did everything. My father is owed by Government a sum of ...	124,272
2. When I assumed charge of the same the Government became further indebted to me ...	22,893
3. Loss sustained by my vessels being prevented from sailing from the Island ...	14,500
4. Loss due to the plundering of my house and property above...	5,000
	166,665

Annexure B.

1. Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din died in the year 1882. His second son Ibrahim Nur-ud-din temporarily succeeded to the throne. After the term of four years all the inhabitants of the Maldives consented to his permanent appointment, and accordingly with the usual ceremonies and customs confirmed him as Sultan of the Maldives. For this ceremony a large sum of money was expended. For the selection of a Sultan the consent of the resident males of all the Islands is necessary, and for the occasion all of them and the chiefs assemble.

2. Ibrahim Nur-ud-din reigned as Sultan until 1886. In the latter end of 1886 there were some differences between the chiefs and Sultan, who decided on abdicating without consulting, as usual, the wish of the islanders living in other islands. The present acting Sultan (Muhammad Muin-ud-din) was nominated by a few of the chiefs. The selection was unusual, and has not been confirmed by the people.

3. As Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din was not deposed and Muhammad Muin-ud-din was only temporarily appointed to the "Musuad," the inhabitants and the large majority of the chiefs of the Maldivé Archipelago now desire that the *ex-Sultan*, whom they regularly appointed, should be reinstated on the throne with the consent and the approval of the Governor of Ceylon.

The Islands being a dependency of Ceylon, the Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din is willing to resume the Sultanship under whatever stipulations are laid down by the Ceylon Government.

It would undoubtedly be more satisfactory to the islanders, and there would be no discontent and party feelings, as at present, if Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din were re-appointed and confirmed, and if he were guided in the administration of the Islands by the Ceylon Government.

No. 16.

A. Ibrahim Didi to Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G.

Malé, Maldives,
December 8, 1892.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to inform Your Excellency that myself and the ministers of our State have jointly written an Arabic letter, as is our custom, to Your Excellency about the sad news of the death of our well-beloved Sovereign Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din Iskandar, in which we have fully explained everything to Your Excellency's information.

As our present Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din is under age to rule himself, a Council called Ruskan Hinga Majlis was appointed to govern the country till His Highness arrives at the proper age, according to the Mohammedan law, the members of which were the ministers and noblemen, who were elected according to the Maldivelaw, and I as the Premier from the time of my brother-in-law, the late Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din Iskandar, was elected President to the said Ruskan Hinga Majlis. Therefore I have to inform Your Excellency, the representative of the British Government in Ceylon, about my appointment to the said office, as we have hitherto done on such occasions.

In conclusion, I hope that the British Government will remain with our present Sovereign more attached in friendly relations than ever, and be under Your Excellency's favour and protection.

I have, &c..

A. IBRAHIM DIDI.

No. 17.

Ministers of State for the Maldives to Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G.

MAY YOUR EXCELLENCY PROSPER,—WE beg to inform Your Excellency that we have been brought down by a very heavy blow, which has filled us with inexpressible sorrow. Our Ruler Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din is no more. He died on the 8th of Jamadul Avval (29th November) of diabetes after a few days' illness, during which he had proper medical treatment.

Before his death he expressed a wish that one of his sons should succeed him. We have accordingly raised his son, who is now only eight years old, to the throne. We, who are the principal Ministers of the State, beg that Your Excellency will show the young ruler as great kindness, favour, and friendship as Your Excellency showed to his father.

Dated 17th Jamadul Avval, 1310 A.H., and signed by—

- (1) IBRAHIM DIDI (Dorhimena Kilege-fan).
- (2) AMIR HASSAN (Farana Kilege-fan).
- (3) VIZIER HASSAN (Hakura Manik-fan).
- (4) VIZIER HASSAN (Vilana Manik-fan).
- (5) HAZINDAR SEYYADU HASSAN (Manik-fan).
- (6) KATIBU SULTANATE IBRAHIM (Manik-fan).
- (7) VIZIER UMAR (Dakura Dakuru-fan).
- (8) SEYYADU MUSA (Katibu Manik-fan).
- (9) AHAMAD DIDI EFFENDI IBUNU IBRAHIM DIDI (Kuda Dorhimena Kilege-fan).
- (10) ALI IBUNU ABDUL KADER SHEK ALI (Alkkali Ali Hessa Muddin.)

No. 18.

The Ministers of State for the Maldives to Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G.

MAY HIS EXCELLENCY PROSPER,—WE beg to inform Your Excellency that we have received Your Excellency's letters of the 10th and 11th January, 1892 (*sic*), and understood their contents. We are required to explain the law of succession in the Maldive Islands. We are asked: Who succeeds to the throne on the death of a Sultan? Who is the eldest son of the late Sultan? Who should be raised to the throne according to the Maldivian law of succession?

In accordance with the custom which had existed between this Government and the Ceylon Government, and in terms of the agreement entered into a short time ago, we informed Your Excellency of the death of the Sultan and what had been done since. But as Your Excellency wishes to know further particulars, we here comply with the wish truthfully.

The deceased Sultan had four wives. Of these, the second and third were divorced a short time before his death. By his first wife the Sultan had two daughters aged seventeen and fifteen years, respectively, and a son aged eight years. This was the son whom the Sultan nominated as his successor. His name is Muhammad Imad-ud-din. The second wife (who was divorced) has a son aged fourteen years and two daughters aged twelve and nine years respectively. The third wife (who was also divorced) has a daughter aged seven years. The fourth wife has two sons aged six and two years respectively. The Sultan had one more wife, but she died childless.

This is the Maldivian custom as to succession. The person nominated by the Sultan at his death succeeds him, whether he is the eldest son or youngest son, or whether he is a member of the Sultan's family or an outsider. This is in accordance with the religion of the Maldivians and their laws. Sultan Muhiyadin invited from Java, 1103 A.H., Seyyadu Muhammadu Samusadin Uhamviyal, who was a foreigner, and delivered the kingdom to him, preferring him to his own children and relations. Again, in 1180 A.H., Sultan Hassan Isasdin, who had three sons, Muhammadu Isasdin, Hassan Nur-ud-din, and Ali, nominated at his death an outsider, Muhammadu Ima-dud-din, who accordingly succeeded him. If the Sultan does not at his death nominate a successor, his eldest son is raised to the throne, provided he is free from defects or such diseases as leprosy, &c., and not wanting in intelligence. When the eldest son is disqualified on the above grounds, the next qualified son is elected to the throne, as in the case of the late Sultan, who was raised to the throne in preference to his elder brother, whose claims were passed over, as he was blind. If the Sultan has no son who is qualified to sit on the throne, a near relation of his is chosen to fill it. In the absence of any qualified relation, the relation of a predecessor is chosen, &c.

It is a duty imposed on us by our religion to carry out the last wish of the Sultan. We have, as requested by him, accepted the child nominated by him as our Sultan. We therefore beg that Your Excellency and Her Majesty the Queen will be pleased to recognize him as Sultan, register his name in the list of Rulers, and show him the same favour as was shown to his father.

Long live Your Excellency. Salaams.

Dated 27th of Rajab, 1310 A.H., and signed by Ibrahim Didi and other ministers.

No. 19.

H. C. P. Bell, Esq., to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Anuradhapura, March 25, 1893.

The Maldive Succession.

SIR,—IN reply to your letter of the 20th instant, I have the honour to annex a memorandum drawn up upon the question (which His Excellency the Governor has done me the honour to refer for my opinion) as to the absolute power to regulate the succession to the throne claimed for the Sultan of the Maldives by the ministers at Malé.

I am, &c.,

H. C. P. BELL.

Enclosure in No. 19.

MEMORANDUM.

Query.

Has the Sultan of the Maldive Islands the absolute and unqualified power of nominating his successor?

Reply.

I.—*Within his own Dominions.*—On the evidence afforded by past history (so far as known to me) I am forced to the conclusion that the Sultans of the Maldives have undoubtedly at times exercised as of right (though in all probability with the advice and support of at least the majority of the chiefs and ministers) the power to regulate the immediate succession to the throne after their death: but provided always that such nomination did not clash with requirements or disabilities created by Maldivan (*i.e.*, Muslim) law, or local custom having the force of law. The Sultans are not above the law, but are otherwise absolute as regards the internal Government of the kingdom.

Pyrard de Laval (for seven years a captive at Malé, between 1602-7 A.D., and still the best authority regarding the Islands) writes: "The Government of the Maldive State is royal, very ancient, and absolute: the king is feared and dreaded, and everything depends upon him."

Lieutenant Christopher of the Indian Navy (a thoroughly reliable writer, who spent some time at the Maldives in 1834-6) notes: "Although the Viziers have the privilege of offering advice, they possess no authority to control the Sultan, but the influence they acquire from their situations often enables them indirectly to restrain him from arbitrary exertions of power, or from adopting measures injurious to the public interests by exciting the people to remonstrance in a body."

The ministers in their letter of the 27th Rajab, 1310 A.D., state the case still more decisively: "This is the Maldivian custom as to succession. The person nominated by the Sultan at his death succeeds him, whether he is the eldest son or youngest son, or whether he is a member of the Sultan's family or an outsider. This is in accordance with the religion of the Maldivians and their laws If the Sultan does not at his death nominate a successor, his eldest son is raised to the throne, provided he is free from defects or such diseases as leprosy, &c., and not wanting in intelligence," *i.e.*, *compos mentis*. "When the eldest is disqualified on the above grounds, the next qualified son is elected to the throne If the Sultan has no son who is qualified to sit on the throne, a near relation of his is chosen to fill it. In the absence of any qualified relation, the relation of a predecessor is chosen." To the disabilities which operate to disqualify for succession to the throne might have been added—

- (i.) Lawful disinherison, on just grounds, of children otherwise eligible;
- (ii.) Disinherison by reason of legal and final divorce of wives, carrying therewith bar to all future claim by the children born of them to royal succession;
- (iii.) Minority.

Ceteris paribus, the usual rule of succession at the Maldives for at least two centuries has been for the eldest surviving son to be nominated by the ruling Sultan before his death and to follow his father on the throne. Thus Sultan Ibrahim succeeded in 1721 A.D.; Sultan M. Muin-ud-din in 1798; and Sultan M. Imad-ud-din in 1835. Failing sons, the Sultan's brother has succeeded (*e.g.*, Sultan M. Mukkarram Imad-ud-din in 1749; Sultan Hassan Nur-ud-din in 1778; in a single instance a daughter, Amina (1753 A.D.).

The two instances (*a*), (*b*), as quoted by the ministers in support of their contention that absolute power of decreeing the succession after his death rests exclusively with the Sultan, need some modification.

(*a*) *Sultan Mohiyadin* in or about 1103 A.H. (1691-2 A.D.) seems actually to have invited to the Maldives a foreigner, Sayyed M. Shansuddin (a native of Hamavi in Yemen) in order to raise him to the throne. As, however, the Arab only held rule for five months, it is very probable that his appointment was not acceptable to the Maldivians. A new though short-lived dynasty then succeeded.

(*b*) In 1380 A.H. (Sultan) Hassan Isasdin, who had three sons, Muhammadu Isasdin (correctly, Muiz-ud-din), Hassan Nur-ud-din, and Ali, nominated at his death an outsider, Muhammadu Imad-ud-din (correctly, Ghiyas-ud-din), who accordingly succeed him. Here the ministers are at fault in regard to the alleged selection of an "outsider." Sultan Hazan Izzuddin, before his death in February, 1767 A.D. (Ramazám, 1180 A.H.), restored the throne to the former line, by appointing as his successor the son of Sultan Ibrahim (1721-49 A.D.), his own children being minors.

(c) The ministers might have also instanced Sultan Ibrahim himself, who in 1749 A.D. installed his brother (Sultan Mukkaram Imad-ud-din) as his successor owing to the minority of his own son (afterwards nominated by Sultan Hassan Izzudderi and crowned in 1763 A.D. as Sultan M. Ghiyas-ud-din).

In both these latter instances (b), (c), therefore, the disability of minority affected the dying decision of the Sultan *pro tanto*, though the sole right of nominating at will a successor legally eligible was both exercised and admitted by the Islanders.

More recently blindness has militated as a disability against claim to succession arising from seniority. Sultan M. Imad-ud-din was followed on the throne in 1882 A.D. by his second son (Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din, recently deceased) "in preference (as rightly stated by the ministers) to his elder brother (Hassan Izzuddin), whose claims were passed over, as he was blind."

II.—*With relation to Great Britain (as represented by the Ceylon Government under the Administration of His Excellency the Governor), virtual Suzerain of the Maldive Islands, a Semi-Sovereign, but Dependent and Tributary State.*—In this connection I may be permitted to invite attention to my remarks in Appendix A ("Political Status of the Sultan") in the report on "The Maldive Islands" (Sessional Paper No. XLIII. of 1882).

After reviewing the historical evidence on the question I summed up the position as follows:—

It appears from the above—

- (i.) That the Maldive Sultans have voluntarily courted defensive alliance with the dominant European power in Ceylon by placing themselves of their own accord under its protection, and by the tender of actual or virtual tribute.
- (ii.) That in the absence of any express treaty or agreement the *role* of suzerain has been accepted by each power in turn by inference clearly deducible from official correspondence.
- (iii.) That the present political status of the Maldives is that of a semi-sovereign State under the exclusive protectorate of the English Government in Ceylon—a relation very similar to that of the King of the Isle of Man with John of England, established by treaty of 1212 A.D.

From the above statement of the case I see no reason to withdraw, save to the extent which the recent agreement come to in 1887 between His Excellency the Governor Sir A. H. Gordon and the Maldive Government may render necessary. Of the exact terms of that agreement I am not aware, but I have been led to believe that it stipulates for immediate report of every change of Government at the Islands on the one hand, and on the other for the formal acknowledgment and approval by the Ceylon Government of any action taken by the Maldive administration, which appears to be in accordance with the wish of the chiefs and people.

Whether in the present enlightened *fin-de-siècle* days of the nineteenth century the absence of an express agreement clearly laying down, *inter alia*, the limits within which the dangerous assumption of absolute power by a petty ruler should be confined is, I venture to think, a matter demanding the serious and urgent consideration of the suzerain power. The "embarrassment" shadowed forth in the under-quoted paragraph of my report (Appendix A, page 125) has occurred more than once since, and, *me judice*, nothing short of a definite engagement with the Maldive Government will put an end to periodical recurrence at the Islands of intrigue and discontent, and, on the part of the Ceylon Government, doubt and uncertainty regarding the right course of action demanded by varying circumstances.

Extract.

It must be confessed that the want of some precise line for the guidance of this Government in its intercourse with the Sultans, such as is clearly laid down in the engagements between the Indian Government and the Protected States (*e.g.*, of Rajaput, Burdela, Malwa, &c.), may be productive of some embarrassment. The Sultan has always been considered and treated by the English as an independent Prince; but it has not yet been settled by express stipulation how far the Sultan, in virtue of his independence, or the Ceylon Government in the character of his friends and protectors, should direct and superintend the external interest of Maldive Islands. If this right belongs solely to the Sultan—as in the eye of international law it has passed, not by influence, but *per expressum*—this Government may be without, and even against, their consent drawn into measures affecting their own interests and possessions: on the other hand, if the Ceylon Government, in virtue of their character as protectors of the Sultan's dominions, claim the right of directing the interests of the Maldive Islands, then they infringe the acknowledged independency of the Sultan, and become in fact the rulers, instead of the defenders, of his country. It seems reasonable, indeed, that the Government who have taken upon themselves the office of protector should be allowed the lead in all political transactions that affect the Maldives, and this the Sultans have admitted *sua sponta* by appealing to the Ceylon Government whenever likely to be involved in difficulties with foreign powers. But should the Sultan claim the privilege of acting for himself, the Ceylon Government, if determined to follow the strict law of nations, may find themselves perplexed until it be absolutely settled how far they or the Sultan are to yield upon any difference of opinion.

The conclusions arrived at may be conveniently summarized:—

1. Within their dominions the Sultans have exercised absolute power of decreeing the immediate succession to the throne, subject only to the requirements and disabilities of Maldive law and established custom.
2. Among such disabilities are—
 - (i.) Disinheritance, actual.
 - (ii.) Disinheritance, virtual, as the result of divorce.
 - (iii.) Minority.
 - (iv.) Bodily defect.
 - (v.) Insanity.

3. Ordinarily, in the absence of disability or express deathbed will to the contrary, succession to the throne falls to the eldest son, next to younger sons, then to other near relations: failing all descendants of Sultans of other dynasties.

4. In relation to Great Britain the Sultans have held, by tacit consent at least, the same absolute power in regard to the royal succession, modified (but still not fully defined) by the requirement since 1887 of immediate communication to the Ceylon Government, as virtual suzerain, of every change of Government occurring at the Islands.

An express treaty is greatly to be desiderated.

March 25, 1893.

H. C. P. BELL.

No. 20.

Mohammed Didi to Lieutenant-Governor Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—IN approaching Your Excellency with the representation referred to in my letter of the 10th instant, I beg to assure Your Excellency that in protesting against the present arrangements for the administration of the Government of the Maldives I am not actuated by any motives of self-interest or aggrandizement, or by a desire to take revenge on those who brought about my downfall by foul and nefarious means. I do at present, in the Laccadive Islands, under the Government of India, hold a position not inferior to the one I held under the Sultan of the Maldives, and fully believing that vengeance belongs to the Almighty God alone I spurn such an idea with contempt. My country is dearer to me than kith or kin, and it is because I see it on the verge of ruin that I have come here at great personal inconvenience to do all I can to save it from the calamity which is now impending over it. As the Prime Minister of three successive Sultans, and as one who is intimately acquainted with the character, usages, and customs of the Maldivians, I foresee things which make me feel anxious for the safety of those people. Ibrahim Didi is an unscrupulous, grasping, and avaricious individual, who would not be satisfied with anything less than the supreme power in the State. He is descended from a family which had manifested this trait of character, on account of which his grandfather, father, and he himself were banished from the country by those Sultans who were wise enough to see through them. By his long residence in Galle and Colombo, where he has made many friends, among whom I may mention Abdul Careem, he has managed by a gross misrepresentation of facts to enlist the sympathy and gain the favour of the previous Governor of Ceylon. It has therefore become my duty to undeceive the Ceylon Government, and for that purpose I annex hereto for Your Excellency's perusal—

- (i.) A statement of facts connected with the Maldivian succession to the throne (marked A);
- (ii.) A genealogical table of the Sultans of the Maldives (marked B); and
- (iii.) A memorandum of the laws and usages with regard to succession (marked C).

These facts I am prepared to prove and verify if some impartial gentleman, who has had nothing to do with Ibrahim Didi and his friends personally, is sent with an impartial interpreter to inquire into them. The interpreter should be other than Abdul Careem, who, besides being disqualified on account of his being an intimate friend of Ibrahim Didi, is otherwise unfit to perform duties as such, inasmuch as he has no knowledge of the Maldivian language, and only a very imperfect knowledge of the Hindustani language, his ignorance of which he betrayed by his inability to explain a single sentence of the treaty sent to the Maldives for the signature of the Sultan.

Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen is the suzerain of the Sultan of the Maldives, and his dominions are therefore under Her Majesty's protection, and I venture to think that this protection consists not only in protecting the Sultan from his external enemies, but also in protecting him, his lawful heirs, and his subjects from the machinations of those internal enemies who have been the bane and the curse of the Maldives. If an inquiry is made, as suggested by me, Your Excellency will find that the statements made by me in Annexure A are true and not exaggerated, and there will be elicited enough facts to convince Your Excellency that the puppet of a Sultan, which is now set up in the person of the youngest son of the late Sultan, to the exclusion of his eldest son and nephew, who, according to the Maldivian laws and customs, are the only two lawful heirs to the vacant throne, has no right or title to succeed his late father, but is placed on the throne by a designing few, who have seized this opportunity to possess all the power in their hands, to aggrandize and enrich themselves by ruining the inhabitants and the foreign merchants, to maltreat those with whom they are offended, and to exterminate those whom they regard as their enemies.

I therefore most humbly beg of Your Excellency to cause strict inquiries to be made in these matters, and to cause justice to be done to my nephew and brother-in-law, the only two lawful heirs of the late Sultan, whose rights an ungrateful minister has set aside.

I also beg of Your Excellency to command the Regent to recall all those relatives and ministers of Sultan Muin-ud-din whom he has iniquitously banished from the Maldives, and not to molest them after their return to their homes and families.

For which act of justice I, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Colombo, May 23, 1893.

MOHAMMED DIDI.

ANNEXURES.

A.—Statement of Facts connected with the Maldivian Succession to the Throne.

My great-grandfather Ibrahim Rannabandari Manikfan was married to the daughter of Sultan Muhammad Moez-ud-din, and was the Prime Minister of Sultan Hassan Nur-ud-din, who reigned over the Maldives over a hundred years ago. He held that office till his master's death, and also served in the same capacity until his death under Sultan Muhammad Muin-ud-din, who succeeded him; in all he was Prime Minister for about thirty-six years. My father, who had married the last Sultan's daughter, succeeded him in office. When this Sultan died he was succeeded by his eldest son Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din, and my father was his Prime Minister for a period of forty years, and after his death I became his Prime Minister at twenty-six years of age. Sultan Imad-ud-din reigned forty-nine years, and at his death left two sons; the eldest son being a blind man, the younger one was raised to the throne under the name of Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din, and governed his subjects with justice and humanity.

Ibrahim Didi, who was then at Galle with his father, returned to the Maldives, and was appointed a minister on my recommendation, and was sent to Colombo with a letter to the Governor containing the Sultan's unwillingness to establish a depôt of coals in one of the islands of the Maldivian group, and on his return applied for appointment as Treasurer, and on my advice that office was conferred on him by the Sultan. After this he began to suggest to me to send away all the foreign merchants trading at the Maldives and to give the monopoly of the whole trade of the Islands to the firm of Carimjee Jafferjee for the annual payment of Rs. 80,000. I told him that they, being British subjects, could not be sent away without the sanction of the Ceylon Government; that the Sultan's subjects would suffer great loss by it, as the granting of a monopoly would mean an increase in the price of articles. He then went with this proposal to the Sultan, but His Highness also declined to give his sanction, and he was displeased with me and his master in consequence of our refusal to accept his proposal.

I went to Calcutta on sick leave, and on my return Ibrahim Didi came to me and complained that the Sultan is not what he had been before; that he would not hear his advice; that he was prone to be severe and self-willed. I also discovered a change in the Sultan, who was led by a favourite of his named Hakura Manikfan. His subjects were dissatisfied with him.

The Sultan, seeing this state of things, abdicated, nominating his nephew Sultan Muin-ud-din as his successor. In consequence of this he was unanimously proclaimed Sultan. The young Sultan walked in the footsteps of his forefathers, adopted the counsels of his Prime Minister, and ruled his subjects with justice and moderation. Ibrahim Didi now began to importune the young Sultan with his monopoly scheme, and the Sultan permitted him to do so after consulting his subjects. Without doing this Ibrahim Didi served notices on the Bombay merchants to quit the Island within four months, and as they demurred and remonstrated their shops and stores were burnt.

Shortly after this an English letter was received from the Lieutenant-Governor informing Ibrahim Didi that His Excellency did not approve of the deposition of the former Sultan without the authority of the Ceylon Government, and of the interference with the free trade of the British subjects. On reading this the young Sultan was struck with terror. He sent me with a letter to the Governor explaining facts about the abdication of Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din and the serving of notices on the foreign merchants. His Excellency the Governor was satisfied. I was sent back, and all was quiet and peaceful again.

The young Sultan now turned his attention to the internal administration of his dominions, to retrench his expenses and to pay off the great debt that was due to the merchants from Bombay, who now petitioned him to settle their claims, as the Treasurer Ibrahim Didi neglected to do so from a number of years. He therefore ordered Ibrahim Didi to submit his accounts for his inspection. Ibrahim Didi delayed compliance. He was peremptorily commanded to obey. This annoyed him to such an extent that he began to abuse his master openly and threatened to dethrone him. The Sultan took away his keys and commanded others to examine his books. They were found to be in a fearful state of confusion, and a debt of Rs. 70,000 was found to have been contracted during the three years he held the office of the Treasurer, so that, including the debt he had contracted when he held that office previously, the whole debt amounted to about a lac of rupees. How all this money was spent the Treasurer's books did not show.

Ibrahim Didi, for fear of incurring the displeasure of the Sultan and its consequences, began to concoct plans for effecting a revolution and to dethrone the Sultan and raise Ibrahim Nur-ud-din again to the throne. For this purpose he gained over to his side one or two ministers, and collected all the bad characters of the place around him, and requested Ibrahim Nur-ud-din to resume his throne. Ibrahim Nur-ud-din came to me one night, informed me of what was taking place, and asked my advice. I advised him to be careful, and to consult the Governor's wishes before he attempted to do such a thing, as he had previously informed His Excellency that he had abdicated of his own accord. He accepted my advice and kept aloof. This exasperated the conspirators the more. Letters were found thrown about the streets threatening destruction to the Sultan's palaces and to the whole Island. In consequence of this some ministers kept aloof, and some kept themselves within doors. One night an ancient palace, containing valuables worth more than a lac of rupees, was set on fire and reduced to ashes. Conflagrations began in every direction, and there was suspense and anxiety in every mind. At last some of the partizans of Ibrahim Didi were detected, and the Sultan ordered the Kazeer to try them and punish them. When the Kazeer sent men to seize the offenders they went and took shelter in Ibrahim Didi's house, and he refused to deliver them up to justice. The populace became excited, and forced an entrance after a slight resistance, and took them prisoners. They were all taken up, tried, found guilty, and the ringleaders exiled. The Sultan wrote to the Governor of Ceylon and informed him of all that had occurred, and the Governor advised him to show some consideration to Ibrahim Didi, in view of his past services, and in consequence of his being a Turkish Vice-Consul. The young Sultan did so.

A man-of-war then arrived with Abdul Careem as interpreter. The Admiral also arrived and desired to know if Ibrahim Didi was impartially tried, and on being answered in the affirmative produced a copy of a treaty and desired the Sultan to read it and sign it. Abdul Careem was unable to explain even a sentence of that treaty to the Sultan. The Sultan was obliged to ask for time, and it was kindly granted to him. Another man-of-war came again with Abdul Careem as an interpreter, and as he was unable to explain the treaty to the Sultan, and the Sultan, not being desirous of creating unnecessary delay, put his seal to the English copy of the treaty. The Sultan sent the usual presents in a vessel to His Excellency the Governor, and an Arabic translation of the treaty was sent to him by it. The Sultan's Arabic Secretary could not understand some portions of it, and another delay was the consequence.

Ibrahim Didi, who was recalled from exile in deference to the Governor's wish, was very kindly treated by the Sultan. Ibrahim Didi petitioned the Sultan to grant him a larger island than what he then possessed for his support, but his request was not granted, and displeased at this Ibrahim Didi ceased to visit the Sultan, and he left the Island.

After this the young Sultan got a Moonshee from Colombo to explain the Arabic copy of the treaty to him and to teach the young men of the Island the Hindustani and English languages. He arrived, and the treaty was fully and properly explained, and the Sultan, having fully understood it, put his seal to the Arabic copy, and sent the same by me and the tribute by the ambassador. He gave me several Arabic letters, with their English translations, to be delivered to the Governor, explaining

to him the reason of the delay in sending the tribute. The weather being bad, it took us seventeen days to reach Colombo.

In the meantime a vessel with the Governor's Aide-de-Camp, who had with him, besides Abdur Careem, his interpreter, Ibrahim Didi and his son, had been despatched by the Governor. The young Sultan was dethroned. I afterwards heard that he was dethroned in the name of the Governor without the knowledge of his Aide-de-Camp. This vessel returned to Colombo on the same day in which my vessel anchored here. Ibrahim Didi showed great external friendship for me, and desired to see the letters I had written to His Excellency the Governor, especially their English translations, and when I refused to yield to his wishes he and the Maha Mudaliyar advised me not to deliver them to His Excellency. I was deceived and bewildered, and did as they desired.

On the day that the tribute was delivered the Maha Mudaliyar, at the suggestion of Ibrahim Didi, subjected me to the humiliation of carrying the Sultan's letter to the Governor on my head, against all previous custom. The Governor condescended to advise me to return to the Maldives and to behave well. I must have been grossly misrepresented to the Governor. All the disturbance, trouble, and rebellion caused by Ibrahim Didi must have been most falsely and maliciously laid to my charge.

I returned to the Maldives, and as soon as my ship anchored the Sultan sent me a small note asking me not to land, but to go to an island at some distance from Malé and reside there for a time, as those who were banished at my time had been recalled and were in power. Of the hardship and misery I endured during my exile I have no wish to trouble Your Excellency with an account of them. All I have stated here are facts, and I am prepared to prove and verify them.

MOHAMMED DIDI.

B.—*Genealogical Table of the Sultans of the Maldives.*

About a hundred years ago Sultan Hassan Nur-ud-din was Sultan of the Maldives. His eldest son Sultan Muhammad Muin-ud-din succeeded him.

He was succeeded by his eldest son Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din. He had two sons:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Eldest son, being blind, did not succeed his father.</p> | <p>2. The younger brother Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din succeeded his father. Was compelled to abdicate, and again was raised to power.</p> |
|--|---|

He has two sons:—

(1) Eldest son Sultan Muin-ud-din reigned for a short time after the abdication of Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din, but abdicated. Dead.

(2) Younger brother is alive, and is one of the heirs to the throne.

He left two sons:—

The eldest son possesses all the qualifications necessary to succeed his father according to the laws and customs of the Maldives. Has been passed over by Ibrahim Didi, who raised his younger brother, a boy of eight years of age, to the throne, constituting himself Regent.

C.—*Memorandum of Laws and Customs regarding Succession in Maldives.*

1. The Sultan-elect should be above fifteen years of age, an age in which a young man attains his majority. He must be a member of the Royal Family, of a sound mind, and free from all bodily defects. He must be intelligent, of a good character, and one who can think and act on his own responsibility.

2. A Sultan who is about to abdicate his throne, or when about to die, may nominate his son as his successor, but the approval of his subjects is absolutely necessary to place him on the throne.

3. In case the eldest son is unfit to succeed him on account of his age, a Sultan can nominate his own brother as his successor, but it is the approval of his subjects alone that makes that choice binding.

4. If the Sultan's sons are minors, he could nominate his own brother or nephew as his successor, but the people must approve of his choice.

5. In case the Sultan's sons are all minors, the Sultan can nominate a Regent, but the nominee must consent to act as such till the sons are grown up, and the people must approve of that choice.

6. If the people do not approve of a nominee of the Sultan, he cannot be raised to power. The person whom they nominate alone is raised to the throne, in spite of the disapproval of the ministers and of the Sultan himself.

7. In case the Sultan dies without issue and without nominating a successor, the people alone have the prerogative of nominating their own sovereign and ruler.

8. The nobles and ministers may suggest a successor of the Sultan, but the people alone must accept him and place him on the throne.

In fact, no Sultan can ascend the throne without the consent and approval of the people.

MOHAMMED DIDI.

No. 21.

The Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary to Mohammed Didi.

Colonial Secretary's Office.
Colombo, June 3, 1893.

SIR,—I AM desired by the Lieutenant-Governor to place on record in this communication the result of the interview which His Excellency granted to you at Kandy on the 31st ultimo, in compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 23rd ultimo, respecting the present state of affairs in the Maldivian Islands, and especially of the succession to the Sultanate.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor, after attentively listening to what you had to say, and after receiving from you some information respecting the Islands in reply to his inquiries, reminded you that, while the Government of Ceylon could not interfere in any manner in the local affairs of the Islands and in matters of purely internal concern, yet it was desirous of preserving the relations entered into with the late Sultan, and of affording its protection and friendship to the Islands, as well as its hospitable assistance to any of its shipwrecked natives.

3. His Excellency further said that it was the duty of this Government to confirm the Sultans only succeeding to the throne according to Maldivian laws and customs of succession, and that the delay in making any such confirmation was due to his desire to have some further information as to such laws and customs. It was explained that any such delay was not of so much consequence, as there had been no man-of-war available to convey any officer to perform the ceremony of recognition and confirmation.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor then enjoined you to counsel your countrymen in the Islands to peaceably await the decisions of the Government of Ceylon as to the succession, and begged you to rest assured that the person who should after full information and consideration be found to be Sultan duly succeeding to the throne according to Maldivian laws and customs would in due time be recognized and confirmed as such.

5. I am to add, with an expression of the interest of this Government in the welfare of the Islands, that His Excellency trusts that you will act on this injunction and assurance.

I have, &c.,

J. A. SWETTENHAM.

No. 22.

Lieutenant-Governor Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., to the Ministers of State for the Maldives.

Colombo. June 5. 1893.

THE Governor of Ceylon left the Island two months ago for a short time, and I, as Lieutenant-Governor, am administering the Government in his absence.

2. As intimated to you in the letter of 11th January last, His Excellency was awaiting a befitting intermission of time before finally considering and communicating to you his decision as to the recognition and confirmation by the Government of Ceylon of the Sultan, whose nomination to succeed to the throne of the Maldives you had reported.

3. No opportunity has yet occurred of sending a high officer of Her Majesty to the Maldives, or of performing the ceremony of recognition.

4. To me there is one point which you do not appear to have made clear, and on which I desire you to be so good as to afford me some further information. It is the duty of this Government to confirm the Sultans duly succeeding to the throne according to Maldivian laws and customs of succession. In response to the Governor's inquiry, you were understood to state that according to such laws and customs the reigning Sultan has absolute and unqualified power and authority to nominate either an older or a younger member of his family, or any one outside of his family, to be his successor to the throne. You, however, make this statement without quoting the authority for it or giving any facts in support of it. In the two instances which you mention, the one Sultan-elect only held rule for five months and the other was the son of a Sultan of a former line.

5. It would appear, on the other hand, from records of the Maldives, that the usual rule of succession for at least two centuries has been for the eldest surviving son to be nominated by the ruling Sultan, and this would be in accordance with Mohammedan law, which, it is presumed, is considered of some authority in the Maldives.

6. It also seems to be necessary that the chiefs and the people should acquiesce in the final election of their Sultan, and I would wish you to inform me whether I am correctly informed on this point.

7. I have further to inquire: What is the custom when the Sultanship devolves on a minor as to the persons who are to govern the kingdom in the name of that minor? Do the ministers become Regents? And if so, what is the authority for this course, and has each an equal voice in the Regency? And by what authority are vacancies in the number of ministers filled up during a Sultan's minority?

8. I would take this opportunity of stating that rumours have reached Ceylon that there is a strong wish on the part of the people for the succession of the elder son of the late Sultan in preference to the younger one, whose election you had reported, and that a representation to this effect had recently been made to you. As you know the great interest we take in everything which affects the prosperity of the Maldives, I had hoped to have received from you a full and particular account of the action of the people in this matter. In the absence of any information from yourselves, which I now request that you will furnish, I find myself unable to judge of the popular feeling in all the islands which compose the Maldives. If the people have any voice in the election, and if the circumstances should be as rumoured, they would form subject for consideration by this Government before confirming any succession.

9. Assuring you of the friendship and good wishes of this Government for the Maldives out of the desire to continue and preserve the happy relations entered on with the late Sultan as stated in the letter of Governor Sir Arthur Gordon,

I have, &c.,

E. NOEL WALKER.

No. 23.

Mohammed Didi to Lieutenant-Governor Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—IN tendering Your Excellency my thanks for the very kind manner in which Your Excellency received me at the interview granted to me on Wednesday, the 23rd ultimo, for the very kind sentiments Your Excellency was pleased to express on that occasion, and for having caused the same to be repeated to me in the Hon. the Colonial Secretary's

letter of the 3rd instant, I beg to state that I am here in this foreign land with neither influence nor wealth to back me in my humble endeavour to be of service to my dearly beloved country in the present crisis.

As I said in my previous communication, Ibrahim Didi has rich and influential friends in Ceylon, who are exerting themselves on his behalf. Abdul Careem, an astute Moorman from Galle, the friend and the counsellor of Ibrahim Didi, is now at Colombo for some time, and stays at Carimjee Jafferjee's bungalow at Kollupitiya, where I am credibly informed consultations are held almost every night about Maldivian affairs by Abdul Careem, Carimjee Jafferjee, and an old Moorman named Abdul Rahman. I am confident that in spite of their plans and schemes the truth will prevail in the end. If Your Excellency will cause strict inquiries to be made by impartial gentlemen and impartial and competent interpreters, all the statements I have made will be proved to be true.

Since last addressing Your Excellency, two messengers, Hassan Didi and Ahmad Didi, and Hadji Hussain Kalayafanu, have arrived from the Maldives with letters to me from (1) His Highness the present Sultan of the Maldives, (2) from the inhabitants of those Islands, and (3) from Ibrahim Didi himself, all of which are pressing invitations to me to go over and assume the administration of the Maldives. I annex hereto translations of these letters for Your Excellency's perusal.

In view of the facts stated in these letters, I feel it a sacred duty I owe to my country to accede to the wishes of my sovereign and countrymen, and I am therefore leaving Ceylon at once for the Maldives. I fully believe that by doing so I shall be better able to comply with Your Excellency's injunction and assurance contained in the 4th paragraph of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 3rd instant.

In compliance with Your Excellency's commands I also annex hereto a genealogical table of the Sultans of the Maldives.

May God grant that the Maldivian Islands, their unfortunate people, and sovereign may long prosper under Your Excellency's protection and friendship.

Colombo, June 9, 1893.

MOHAMMED DIDI.

ANNEXURES.

I.—*Translation of the Sultan's Letter.*

Written from the palace to my elder brother, Salaams. I am quite well by the grace of God. All the people, the ministers, and lascars have unanimously placed me on the throne on the 20th of the month of Shawwal. Very shortly after this I have despatched a vessel named Shafal Hameed with a letter similar to this one by the hands of Fandy Kalayafanu and Mousa Kalayafanu to bring my brothers. On the 9th of the month of Zulhaj, by the arrival of the vessel Harripassa, I was informed that you were at Colombo. On Sunday, the 12th of the month of Zulhaj, I have sent to you Ahmad Didi and Kalayafanu in the vessel Rupori belonging to Jeevunjie Noorbhai with this letter requesting you to come back to me. As soon as you see this letter please come back to Malé without delay. By the grace of God I believe the present state of the Island is good.

12th Zulhaj, 1310.

II.—*Translation of the Letter from the People.*

With thanks to God and submission to His Almighty will, we write this letter containing the present news of this place in order that it may reach the blessed hands of Ranabandari Kalayafanu with the belief that the prayer contained in it will be granted. The following is the news. On Sunday, the 20th of the month of Shawwal, all the lascars assembled for the distribution (receiving the annual presents), and being dissatisfied with the present state of things in the island and sent for the other inhabitants of this place, as well as those of the other islands, and, after holding a consultation, arrived at the conclusion that what has been done previous to this has been done without their knowledge, and believing also that the eldest son of Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din is now capable of managing his own affairs placed him on the throne, and appointed the younger brother of the late Sultan Muin-ud-din to assist him for some time. After this all of us formed the determination of preventing any person from oppressing another and creating any disturbance for the future, and should it appear that any person is doing this, of separating him from us. Then, having unanimously come to the conclusion that there are the three brothers Ranabandari Kalayafanu, Abdulla Didi, and Ismail Didi, who are best qualified to manage the affairs of our august Sultan, whom we have placed on the throne, and whose commands we are willing to obey with the greatest willingness, we petitioned His Highness to send for you three brothers without any delay. The Sultan also informed us that this was the first thing that must be done, and he commanded us to do so. Then at once we have sent to the Laccadives Pandigey Muhamad Kalayafanu and Deknuge Mousa Kalayafanu with several lascars. Then Naibu Tuttu was brought down, and we asked him to write a letter to Colombo, but as he disapproved of it, other chief men also thought likewise. Then we and the Sultan heard of your staying in Colombo from the bagla (vessel) of Jeevunjie Noorbhai, and we thanked God for this news. The Sultan consulted with all his ministers, and they with one accord approved of the step, and with the consent of all the people we have sent Ahmad Didi and Hadji Hoossain Kalayafanu to call you to Colombo. We beg you to grant our request, and all of us with the Sultan earnestly await your safe arrival.

This letter is written in the Cutchery on the 11th of the month of Zulhaj by the command of the Sultan, and sent by the vessel Guiya Fatah Careem belonging to the firm of Jeevunjie Noorbhai.

III.—*Translation of Ibrahim Didi's Letter.*

Ibrahim Didi's many salaams to Muhamad Koko. As I believe the news from the Maldives are good, and as your coming as quick as possible is better, I request you to do so with God's aid and help. These days I remain giving thanks to God.

11th Zulhaj.

MOHAMMED DIDI.

IV.—*Genealogical Table of the Sultans of Maldives.*

About a hundred years ago Sultan Muhamad Moez-ud-din (my great-grandfather) reigned over the Maldives for about seven years, and when he died he left no male issue, and the people chose his younger brother Sultan Hassan Nur-ud-din as their sovereign, and he reigned to the best of my recollection over ten or twelve years. He was succeeded by his eldest son Sultan Muhamad Muin-ud-din, who reigned for thirty-seven years. He was succeeded by his eldest son Sultan Muhamad Imad-ud-din, who reigned for forty-nine years. He left two sons :—

1. The eldest, being blind, did not succeed his father. He is alive, and had two sons :—

(1) Sultan Muin-ud-din, who reigned over the Maldives for a short time, and was obliged to abdicate. He is now dead.

(2) The younger brother is alive, and is now a minister of the present Sultan.

2. The younger brother Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din succeeded his father. He reigned for a short time and abdicated, nominating his nephew Sultan Muin-ud-din as his successor. This choice was approved of by the people, and they with one voice and consent placed him on the throne. After a short reign he was forced to abdicate, and Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din was again placed on the throne. He died some time ago leaving three sons. The eldest was passed over, and the youngest, a boy of five years of age, was placed on the throne by Ibrahim Didi, but the people did not approve of this arrangement, dethroned the boy Sultan, and raised the eldest son to the throne.

MOHAMMED DIDI.

No. 24.

Lieutenant-Governor Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., to the Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.
Miscellaneous.—No. 282.

The Pavilion, Kandy,
Ceylon, June 10, 1893.

MY LORD MARQUESS.—WITH reference to the concluding paragraph of Your Lordship's despatch No. 49 of the 17th February last, I have the honour to report the occurrences which have since taken place in connection with the succession to the Sultanate of the Maldives Islands, but which have not yet terminated in the formal recognition by the Government of Ceylon of any successor.

2. I annex a copy of the letter* which was received from the Ministers of State in reply to those addressed to them on receipt of intimation of the death of the late Sultan. Statements had meantime been made in the newspapers and otherwise that the late Sultan had an elder son who should succeed to the throne.

3. There was no authority quoted for the assertion that the Sultan did have the absolute and unqualified power claimed by the ministers in this letter of nominating his successor. I was not successful in obtaining in Ceylon any decided opinion on the point as regulated by Maldivian laws and customs of succession to the Sultanate. It was resolved therefore, in the end of March, in the absence of any occasion for prompt action, to await events. Any delay was of less consequence, as there was no vessel of war available by which an officer could be sent to perform the ceremony of recognition of the Sultan.

4. The ministers have made no further communication, but towards the end of last month reports were brought by vessels trading with Ceylon to the effect that there was a divided and unsettled feeling about the succession, and that the elder son of the late Sultan, stated variously to be from fifteen to seventeen years of age, had been raised to the throne in place of his younger brother. The statements did not amount to anything which was specific or reliable, and there did not seem to be any serious disturbance. At any rate, I felt that I was precluded by the relations into which this Government had entered with that of the Maldives under the authority of Sir Henry Holland's despatch No. 190 of 20th June, 1887, from interfering with these local affairs and matters of internal concern, and that this Government should confine its action to the confirmation of the Sultan who might be satisfactorily shown to have succeeded to the throne according to Maldivian laws and customs.

5. On the 27th ultimo I received from Mohammed Didi, a minister of former Sultans, and an exile at Minicoy since 1888, the letter, of which I enclose a copy.† In that communication he protests against the present arrangements for the administration of the Government of the Maldives, and prays for inquiry being made into matters alleged by him, and for justice being done to the lawful heirs of the late Sultan, as well as for the recall and protection of the banished relatives and ministers of a former Sultan. He had previously begged that the sanction of the election of the boy Sultan, whose nomination has been reported, might be deferred until I had given him an opportunity of submitting to me the statement which is now contained in the letter just enclosed. He further asked for a personal interview, which I granted, and the result of which I placed subsequently on record in a letter addressed to him on the 3rd instant (copy annexed).‡

6. As it had been stated that Ibrahim Didi, the principal of the Ministers of State, had given, as his reason for not making any further communication to this Government, the circumstance that no reply had been received by the ministers to their letter of 14th February, I addressed to them the communication of the 5th instant.§

7. Subsequently I learnt that some Bombay merchants in Colombo had chartered a steamer to proceed to the Maldives Islands, and that Mohammed Didi and his friends were about to take passage in her. I at once by the opportunity of this steamer informed the ministers that the proceeding was in no way taken under the auspices of this Government, and I placed them in possession of a copy of the letter addressed to Mohammed Didi on the 3rd instant, stating that it was the only communication which had been made to him by this Government. Later, the Acting Colonial Secretary verbally warned Mohammed Didi that this Government could not approve of anything

* See No. 18.

† See No. 20.

‡ See No. 21.

§ See No. 22.

like a hostile expedition against the Maldives, and reminded him that this Government could recognize and confirm only such successor to the Sultanate as should be duly nominated and elected according to Maldivian laws and customs.

8. The steamer was appointed to leave Colombo at noon to-day, and I received at that hour at Kandy the further letter from Mohammed Didi, of which I enclose a copy.* From this and its enclosures it would appear that the boy Sultan-elect has been displaced on the throne by his elder brother, and that Ibrahim Didi, the minister to whom I have referred, had joined in an invitation to the banished Mohammed Didi to return to the Maldives and to take part in the administration of the Government. I have forwarded this communication to the ministers with an intimation that I await their report of the occurrences with a view of considering the question of recognition and confirmation of the succession to the Sultanate according to their laws and customs. If the statements in this letter are correct, they will probably be followed by an application from all parties for the recognition of the elder son as Sultan in succession to his father.

9. I do not apprehend any difficulty in dealing with the matter, inasmuch as I have only to await an authentic report of a due nomination to the succession in accordance with what may be shown to be the laws and customs.

I have, &c.,

E. NOEL WALKER.

No. 25.

The Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon to Lieutenant-Governor Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G.
Ceylon No. 192.

Downing street, July 13, 1893.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 222 of the 10th ultimo reporting the occurrences which have taken place in connection with the question of the succession to the Sultanate of the Maldivian Islands.

I shall await with interest the receipt of a further report from you on this subject.

I have, &c.,

RIPON.

No. 26.

Hassan Nur-ud-din Muhammad Imad-ud-din, Sultan-nominate of the Maldives, to Lieutenant-Governor Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G.

MAY God bless your Government with prosperity or other goodness.

I most respectfully beg to inform Your Excellency that I have forwarded a letter addressed to Your Excellency, in which have been noted all the events that passed since the death of my uncle, the late Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din.

That I hope Your Excellency must have received the letter.

Now, I have the honour to intimate to Your Excellency since the arrival of Mohammed Didi and Seyd Abdul Kader (Madrassé) gathering the people by giving bribes in money and by other means to side them, and whoever do not yield to their wishes are treated harshly, and those who were expelled during the reign of my uncle are now in the course of recalling to the Island, and that the laws and customs were upset.

If Your Excellency's Government does not interfere in such troublous times as this, that the things would be turned up worse than the last revolution, and this Island would be subjected to ruination, and fearing further danger may occur to the people, and it is anticipated when they came to power.

Therefore Your Excellency must protect our country and the people from the injuries; and further occurrences will be submitted to Your Excellency.

It is to be feared whenever letters are found to be addressed to the Ceylon Government, such letters are confiscated, and the persons are punished as previously done.

I have most respectfully to submit to Your Excellency's information.

HASSAN NUR-UD-DIN.

Zulhaj, 18th the day of Hijra, 1311 (or 9th July, 1893).

[Translated (from the Tamil copy) by A. K. Mohammed Ismail. Colombo, July 23, 1893.]

No. 27.

Lieutenant-Governor Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., to the Ministers of State for the Maldives.

August 3, 1893.

IN continuation of the letter written to you on the 5th June, 1893, I forward herewith copy of a letter from Hassan Nur-ud-din Mantige Ibbun Dori Maneepuloo Ibbun Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din, dated the 9th July, 1893.† Until I am in a position to recognize the Sultan-nominate who may be shown to me to have succeeded to the throne according to Maldivian laws and customs I cannot properly correspond with the writer. I request you to explain this to the writer, with an expression of my highest regard and good wishes for the Maldivians.

2. I would further say that the letter reporting events, and referred to in the first two paragraphs of the communication, has not reached me, and in this connection I would refer you to my letter of the 28th June, 1893, relative to another missing letter said to have been transmitted through Makjee, the master of the "Ganja Hassen" *alias* "Tootra."

* See No. 23.

† See No. 26.

3. With reference to the concluding passage of the present writer's letter, I may point out that his letters can be given to a trusted messenger, who will deliver them either to the Colonial Secretary or myself.

4. I have to add, in conclusion, that I can take no action until I receive replies to my letters to you of the 5th June, 1893, and 21st June, 1893, the receipt of the former of which has been acknowledged by A. Ibrahim Didi in a letter to me dated 12th July, 1893.

E. NOEL WALKER.

No. 28.

S. H. Abdulally to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

No. 102, Fourth Cross street, Pettah,
Colombo, July 28, 1893.

SIR,—I BEG to inform you that one of my buggalows arrived from the Maldives yesterday and reports that a great commotion has again been created in those Islands by Ibrahim Didi, the former Prime Minister. At the universal desire of the people, and with the sanction of all the notables, the eldest son of the deceased Sultan was placed on the throne, and a cousin of the deceased Sultan was made Regent during the minority of the new Sultan. The affairs were thus getting on quietly, and our trade there was once more carried on in peace. But it appears that a few days before the buggalow left, through the intrigues of Ibrahim Didi, the person who was made Regent was set up as Sultan in place of the legitimate Sultan, and a great commotion has been created in the Maldives, and the interests of our trade are seriously threatened, and jeopardized the lives of our agents. It is become necessary that the Ceylon Government should take immediate steps for the protection of our trade and the safety of our men. I stand in great fear of the consequences of the present state of affairs. As a British subject, I respectfully beg that the Government may seriously consider these things and interfere to protect our business and trade by restoring peace and good government in the Maldives, and trust instant relief may be granted in the present deplorable circumstances.

I am, &c.,

per pro. S. H. ABDULALLY,
W. S. HIBTULABHY.

No. 29.

Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din to Lieutenant-Governor Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G.

MAY HIS EXCELLENCY'S WORTH INCREASE,—I BEG to inform Your Excellency as follows :— I wrote Your Excellency some letters before this. In them I made reference to the disturbances and changes which had taken place in the Maldives. Afterwards greater disturbances and rebellions were caused by Mohammed Didi and the Madrassé Seyd Abdul Kader, who was his adviser, helped by a party of people who sided him, and some Ministers of State were removed from office. Mohammed Didi acquired the chief power over all, and had the intention of exiling certain of the chiefs. The inhabitants did not agree to this, and unanimously declared that they did not like that Mohammed Didi should hold the chief power, because, they said, he was found unworthy and banished by Sultan Ibrahim (Nur-ud-din). Now he, having come back, was undoing what the late Sultan had done, and was doing things in a different way, and the ruler being a lad all these evils were tolerated. They said : " If this state of things were allowed to continue, the inhabitants would suffer and the country would be ruined. He himself (the Sultan) is not able to do or undo anything. We do not therefore like that a lad should be our Sultan. We therefore feel it our duty to appoint the oldest of one of the sons of Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din as our Sultan." Accordingly, they have raised me to the throne, and named me Muhammad Imad-ud-din. Until the 21st July, 1893, my name was Hassan Nur-ud-din. They have also banished four of the ringleaders of the disturbance to other islands, and sent the Madrassé Seyd Abdul Kader to Colombo. I have confirmed the ministers in the respective positions held by them during the reign of my uncle Ibrahim Nur-ud-din. Further, I have undertaken to be the guardian of his children. When all this had been done, the disturbance subsided and peace was restored. However, the disturbance will not fully cease, and the fear of any will not be completely removed until confirmation is made and protection is offered by Your Excellency's Government. This is what we have to inform Your Excellency. Now, I beg of Your Excellency that Your Excellency will be pleased to recognize me and confirm me as Sultan.

May Your Excellency prosper long.

Dated 20th day of Moharram, 1311 A.H.

No. 30.

Ibrahim Didi to Lieutenant-Governor Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G.

MAY HIS EXCELLENCY'S WORTH INCREASE,—I BEG to inform Your Excellency as follows :—

I recently wrote Your Excellency a letter. In it I said that as the people of the Maldives were divided into factions, and as each faction wanted a Sultan of its nomination, I was not able to write Your Excellency a reply. Mohammed Didi and his faction removed the ministers from their respective offices. He assumed the office of Prime Minister. The inhabitants unanimously declared that they did not like that Mohammed Didi should have the chief power. He undid all that had been done by Sultan Ibrahim (Nur-ud-din). They also said that they did not like to have a lad as their Sultan, and wanted that a grown up son of one of the sons of Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din should be made Sultan, and accordingly raised a son of Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din's brother to the throne. He is the oldest of the princes. They named him Muhammad Imad-ud-din. His name was Hassan Nur-ud-din. This is all we have to inform Your Excellency. Salaams.

Dated 20th day of Moharram, 1311 A.H.

A. IBRAHIM DIDI.

No. 31.

The Ministers of State for the Maldives to Lieutenant-Governor Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G.

MAY HIS EXCELLENCY'S WORTH INCREASE,—We beg to inform Your Excellency as follows :—

We reported some time ago the death of our ruler Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din. As desired by him at his death, we asked Your Excellency that the same favour as was shown to him might be shown to his son, who was nominated by him to the throne. In making that request we only complied with the wish of the deceased Sultan, and placed before Your Excellency the truth. We believed that the matter would then be settled, but we did not want to induce Your Excellency to approve the nomination. We received no reply as to whether Your Excellency had approved the nomination or not, but we got a letter asking us to give certain information regarding the laws and customs of the Maldivian Islands and to state whether what had taken place was in accordance with those laws and customs. In the reply to this letter, which was our second one, we sent all the details we could possibly give, and were expecting an answer, when, on a sudden, there began to be rebellions, commotions, difficulties, and troubles. The people, who were united, were falling off one by one. These disturbances did not subside when the first Sultan was deposed and the second was raised to the throne, nor when Mohammed Didi and the Madrassé Seyd Abdul Kader arrived and did all that they did, but only increased until the inhabitants raised the third Sultan to the throne. This Sultan, who is reigning at present, is a son of the elder brother of Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din's son Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din. After he ascended the throne the rebellions have subsided and been quelled.

By Your Excellency's letter of the 3rd August, which we have duly received, we have been desired to show by clear and unmistakable proof that, according to the Maldivian laws and customs, the present ruler has lawfully succeeded to the throne. We therefore submit that the present Sultan, as well as all the sons of Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din when viewed in their relation to Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din, are members of the same stock, being the sons of the sons of Muhammad Imad-ud-din. He (the present ruler) therefore is one of the rightful heirs to the throne. Further, if his father had his eyesight, Ibrahim Nur-ud-din, who was his younger brother, could not have ascended the throne.

We have given all the information we can about this matter.

May Your Excellency live long.

Dated the 4th day of Rabiul Awwal, 1311, which corresponds to the 14th September, 1893.

- (1) IBRAHIM DIDI (Prime Minister).
- (2) HASSAN FARNA KILEGE-FAN (Prince).
- (3) HUSSAN HAKRA MANIK-FAN (Commander of the Forces).
- (4) HUSSAN VILANA SADU BANTAR (Captain of the Sea Coast).
- (5) USAN DIDI (Treasurer).
- (6) AHAMMADU DIDI (Sultan's Personal Staff).
- (7) SEYAD HASSAN MANIK-FAN (First Pidikar).
- (8) MUSA MANIPPULU (Prince).
- (9) IBRAHIM PAILIYA MANIK-FAN (Sultan's Secretary).
- (10) UMARU DAKURA DAKURU-FAN (a Captain of the Forces).
- (11) SEYED MUSA MANIK-FAN (Sultan's Staff).
- (12) USAN (Kazee).

No. 32.

Lieutenant-Governor Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., to the Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.

Queen's House, Colombo,
Ceylon, September 15, 1893.

Miscellaneous.—No. 320.

MY LORD MARQUESS,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's despatch No. 192 of the 13th July, stating that Your Lordship awaits with interest the receipt of a further report from me on the subject of the succession to the Sultanate of the Maldivian Islands.

2. In reply I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that I have not yet received any reply to the communications on the subject addressed by me to the Ministers of State for the Maldives on the 5th and 21st June last, the latter of which was referred to in the 8th paragraph of my despatch of 10th June. I received, however, on the 20th ultimo the enclosed letter* from Hassan Nur-ud-din Mantige Ibnu Dori Maneeppulu Ibnu Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din, who professes to be the late Sultan-nominate of the Maldives, representing that Mohammed Didi, the returned ex-Prime Minister, is exercising undue influence over the people, and asking for the interference and protection of the Ceylon Government. I forwarded a copy of this letter to the Ministers of State with an intimation that until I am in a position to recognize the Sultan-nominate who may be known to me to have succeeded to the throne according to Maldivian laws and customs, I cannot properly correspond with the writer, and that I can take no action on the matter until I receive replies to my letters of the 5th and 21st June last. I enclose a copy of my letter for Your Lordship's information.

3. From the reports of various persons from the Maldives, I have reason to believe that since the arrival of Mohammed Didi many people from the Archipelago have sailed back to other islands from Malé, which has now been left with its normal population.

4. Since then Ibrahim Didi's influence with the majority at Malé (the King's Island) has prevailed, and the elder son of the late Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din Iskander, whose displacement of his younger brother I referred to in the 8th paragraph of my despatch of 10th June, No. 224, would appear to have now been deposed, and in his place the son of the elder brother of the late Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din Iskander has been raised to the throne. This is the writer of the letter of 9th July above-mentioned.

5. The elder brother above-mentioned was blind, and, being on that account disqualified to succeed, never reigned.

* See No. 26.

6. Authentic letters from the ministers detailing these events have not yet reached me.
7. From Mohammed Didi a letter has been received in Colombo, written in great despondency, and professing to be afraid of exile or worse at the hands of his rival Ibrahim Didi, the Prime Minister.
8. Some part of the cause of all these revolutions may be traced, I think, to influences outside the Maldives. The inhabitants of these Islands are a simple people, and the trade with the Sultan's Island, Malé, the only port of entry, is very valuable.
9. For this lucrative trade four firms of Parsees, located in Bombay and Colombo, are rivals.
10. Each supports one party at the Maldivian Court, and endeavours to gain some trade preference, or to prevent his rivals doing so, at the Maldivian Customs.
11. One side (perhaps the wealthiest) supports Ibrahim Didi, the other supports Mohammed Didi; and this exterior influence (and perhaps pecuniary aid) fomented faction in the Maldivian Islands.
12. The matter is complicated by one firm claiming to have advanced money to the late Maldivian Government.
13. By these traders advantage is being taken of my decision not to interfere in the internal affairs of the Islands, as I understand that I am precluded from doing under the instructions as to the relations of this Government with that of the Maldives as defined in Sir Henry Holland's despatch of 20th June, 1887, No. 190.
14. Accusations have reached me, since these dissensions began, against some interested persons in Colombo, of suppressing letters from the Islands and of preparing letters in Colombo purporting to have come from the Islands.
15. I am under the impression that the real state of feeling of the community and the determination as to the proper successor to the Sultanate cannot be settled until some officer is sent to the Islands to inquire and ascertain the facts. The limited means of communication with the Islands and the apparent disinclination of the ministers, from whatever cause, to give me full and effective information make it a difficult matter for settlement by correspondence. As soon as I can learn that the agents of the larger outlying islands can be again collected at Malé in order that the feeling of the whole community, and not merely that at Malé, can be ascertained, and when a man-of-war is available for the purpose, I propose to send an officer to the Islands to obtain the desired information if it should not meantime be furnished.
16. I may add, however, that an old trader who arrived in the second week of last month from Malé with some letters reported the Island to be perfectly quiet.
17. At the same time I received the two letters dated the 3rd ultimo, of which I enclose copies, from the third Sultan-nominate and from Ibrahim Didi, the chief minister of the deceased Sultan.* In both of these letters it is stated that the nephew of the deceased Sultan, the writer of the former letter, has been raised to the throne. There is, however, no evidence or assurance that such succession has taken place according to the laws and customs of the Maldives regulating such matters, and I am still of opinion after all which has recently passed that no satisfactory decision can be arrived at until the Island is visited by some officer deputed by this Government.
18. The foregoing despatch had been prepared in the middle of last month. As I have not been able to make any arrangements for the visit of an officer to the Maldives, and as I have received no further communication from the Islands in reply to my requests for information respecting the laws and customs regulating succession to the throne, I do not propose to take any steps before the resumption of Sir Arthur Havelock on the 24th instant. There is no reason to suppose that the interests of the Maldivians are suffering from any delay in the recognition by this Government of a successor to the Sultanate.

I have, &c.,
E. NOEL WALKER.

No. 33.

The Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G., to Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G.
Ceylon.—No. 280.

Downing street, October 26, 1893.

SIR,—UPON receipt of Sir Edward Walker's despatch No. 320 of the 15th ultimo, respecting the question of the succession to the Sultanate of the Maldivian Islands, I caused a letter to be addressed to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty asking that one of Her Majesty's ships of war on the East Indian Station may be detailed to convey an officer of your Government to the Islands in order to make full inquiry into the present position of affairs.

Their Lordships have assented to this request, and the necessary instructions have been sent to the Commander-in-Chief on the Station. You will now doubtless select an officer for this duty, and arrange with the Commander-in-Chief as to his departure.

I have, &c.,
RIPON.

No. 34.

H. A. Didi and Ismail Didi to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colombo, December 1, 1893.

SIR,—IN forwarding herewith the statement called for by your letter No. 3,958 of the 27th instant, we beg to tender our sincere thanks to His Excellency the Governor for the kindness with which he has given us an opportunity of doing so. We need hardly assure you that we are actuated by no motives of self-interest or party feeling, nor by a desire to influence the Ceylon Government to interfere in the internal affairs of the Maldivian Islands in coming here all the way from Minicoy and in taking up the cause of the eldest son of the late Sultan. It is only because we feel convinced that a gross wrong has been done to the eldest son of the late Sultan, in violation of the laws and customs

* See Nos. 29 and 30.

to the Maldives, but they did not comply with that request, as they could not obtain the permission of their elder brother to do so, because he was not at Minicoy at the time, but had gone to Colombo to see His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

Your Excellency's petitioners take the liberty of annexing hereunto an English translation of the said letter for Your Excellency's perusal (marked A.)

8. That Your Excellency's petitioners are now come to Colombo to beg an interview with Your Excellency in order to give Your Excellency full and faithful information respecting the laws and customs that prevail at the Maldives and other information that may be useful to Your Excellency at a time like the present, information about Ibrahim Didi, Hassan Didi, and their other associates, who have caused this revolution to deprive the rightful heir of his throne, and when he was placed on it, in accordance with the laws and customs of the land by the people, to remove him from it most cruelly by cunning devices.

9. That though these men had placed two Sultans other than the rightful one on the throne, Your Excellency did not acknowledge and confirm any of them. Before Your Excellency could institute proper inquiries into this matter and come to a conclusion, Hassan Didi, who was a man of no consequence, but has raised himself to his present position by becoming an active member of Ibrahim Didi's faction in every revolution created by it, has come to Colombo as an ambassador of the Sultan made by his faction with the object of indirectly committing Your Excellency to a recognition of the Sultan by inducing Your Excellency to accept the tribute. He has warned the Maldivians now in the harbour to say nothing against his nominee, and it is therefore in vain to make any inquiry of him or of them. Some of these men have come to the petitioners and with tears stated that they were threatened by Hassan Didi with severe punishment on their return to their houses if they do not go to the Maha Mudaliyar's house and say that they approve of the present Sultan and sign a paper to that effect, and that they were forced to go there and compelled to sign a paper given by him. They also told the petitioners that, with the exception of about forty men in the whole of the Maldives, the rest are greatly dissatisfied with the present Sultan, who, according to the ancient and respected customs of the Maldivians, can have no preferential right to the throne. That there is at present no disturbance or rebellion in the Maldives, and this fact must not be construed that the people with whom the choice of a Sultan rests have approved the choice by Ibrahim Didi and his friends of the Sultan now on the throne. They are only kept in restraint from rebellion by Mohammed Didi, both because he is afraid that he would be accused by these self-seeking men, who have now a nominee of theirs on the throne, of having caused it, and because he is assured that the Ceylon Government, which desired that he should do all he could to maintain peace, would fulfil its obligation by making a full inquiry into the matter.

10. That Your Excellency's petitioners are no exiles. They left the Maldives because they were utterly disgusted with the fickleness of the Sultan, who had lent himself as a tool in the hands of an unprincipled and self-seeking man like Ibrahim Didi, who had established his authority over the Maldivians, though they hated him, by making them to believe that the Ceylon Government was always on his side, as it appeared by the repeated interferences on his behalf, and with the anarchy that prevailed in those Islands at that time. They could not bear to see their countrymen shamefully insulted and ill-treated, the laws and customs of the land disregarded and trampled under foot. It plainly appeared to them that the Ceylon Government was led astray by some officials it trusted; these officials were men who took and are taking a deep interest in Ibrahim Didi. On the face of the existing treaty the Ceylon Government did interfere in the internal affairs of the Sultanate, and was the main cause of the recall of Ibrahim Didi and his colleagues from exile. Had it not been for Governor Gordon's repeated letters, Ibrahim Didi and the other enemies of good government would never have been recalled from their justly deserved exile. The old Sultan would not have been reinstated, and Mohammed Didi, who was always faithful to his country and his Sultan and a lover of peace and justice, would never have been banished, and the petitioners' unfortunate countrymen would not have suffered years of misery and sorrow. Had it not been that Ibrahim Didi's friend was sent as interpreter there, there would have been no misrepresentation, such as the one which ended in the deposition of Sultan Muin-ud-din. Had it not been that Ibrahim Didi was sent in a man-of-war under the guise of British authority, the Maldivians would have torn him to pieces as a traitor and tyrant. Had it not been that letters were addressed to the ministers, and had it not been that one of these letters was admissible of a meaning that the Ceylon Government was hostile to Mohammed Didi, the eldest son of the late Sultan, who was duly raised to the throne in perfect accordance with the Maldivian laws and customs, could not have been dethroned. Thus, Your Excellency will see what harm has been done by the interference of the Ceylon Government with the internal affairs of the Maldivian Sultanate. The petitioners have heard that Your Excellency has plainly stated that the Ceylon Government will not interfere in the internal affairs of the Maldivian Islands. It is this assurance of Your Excellency that has emboldened them to come forward. They do not ask for anything more than that an announcement may be made in the Maldivian Islands that the Ceylon Government does not mean to support Ibrahim Didi any more than Mohammed Didi. An inquiry after such an announcement is bound to enable Your Excellency to learn the truth as to the laws and customs of Maldivian succession to the throne. They would further suggest the following questions as furnishing a clue to the solution of the problem. The questions are: If the youngest son was the nominee of the Sultan, why was the eldest son made Sultan, and who was it that made him? If the present man had any right to the throne in preference to the eldest son, why was he not raised to the throne immediately after the death of the late Sultan or after the youngest son was deposed, and why did he accept the office of Regent under the eldest son?

11. That Your Excellency's petitioners believe that Your Excellency will not do justice to more than sixty or seventy thousand Maldivians if Your Excellency accepts the tribute now brought on the statement and evidence of a few fishermen, the majority of whom are not residents of Malé, who are utterly ignorant of Mohammedan law and of the customs and usages of their forefathers with regard to succession, and who from their infancy are accustomed to believe that wherever there is might there is right, and, above all, of those who have been threatened here by the so-called ambassador with exile and the confiscation of their property after their return to their islands, and with the detention of the proceeds of the sale of their dry fish if they do not obey him. Surely a sovereign's rights are not to be thrown away on the mere desire and the coached-up evidence of a

few ignorant fishermen, when there are hundreds of nobles and princes of the royal blood and officers of State residing at Malé, whose evidence alone is worthy of confidence.

12. Your Excellency's petitioners also beg permission to annex hereunto for Your Excellency's perusal an English translation of a letter received from Farna Kilege-fan, a gentleman next in rank to the Sultan himself (marked B), a genealogical table of the Sultans of the Maldives (marked C), and a memorandum of the laws and usages regarding succession prevailing in the Maldivian Islands (marked D).

13. That since writing the above Your Excellency's petitioners have received intelligence by a vessel which arrived here yesterday from the Maldives that the people of the Maldives, unable longer to endure the injustice which was being done by Ibrahim Didi and his handful of supporters, had again risen in a body against their authority, and were at the time the vessel left Malé about to place the rightful heir on the throne. From this Your Excellency can see plainly what the popular feeling is in respect of the rightful heir to the throne. If Ibrahim Didi and Hassan Didi, the so-called ambassador, succeeded in pulling him down from the throne, it was with the power with which certain letters from the Ceylon Government and from some native officials connected with it armed him.

Wherefore Your Excellency's petitioners pray that a careful inquiry may be made into the now complicated claim to the Maldivian throne in the manner suggested by Farna Kaligafan in his letter (marked B), and that before such an inquiry is held and the rightful heir is placed on the throne, and confirmed by Your Excellency, the reception of the tribute may be delayed.

For which act of justice Your Excellency's petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

H. A. DIDI.
ISMAIL DIDI.

ANNEXURES.

A.—*Letter from the Young Sultan, the Regent, and his Father to the Petitioners.*

In the Palace, from Mavandne Gondamar and from the Regent. What we brothers desire to say to you our brothers is as follows, to wit:—We request our three brothers, Ranabandari Kilege-fan, Abdulla Didi, and Ismail Didi, to come in this vessel to Malé by the grace of God without delay. All the inhabitants and all the subjects (of the Sultanate) desire that you should come to Malé as quick as possible, because we do not wish to do anything before your arrival, and while you remain there. Know that this is our desire, and come with the two men whom we have sent to you.

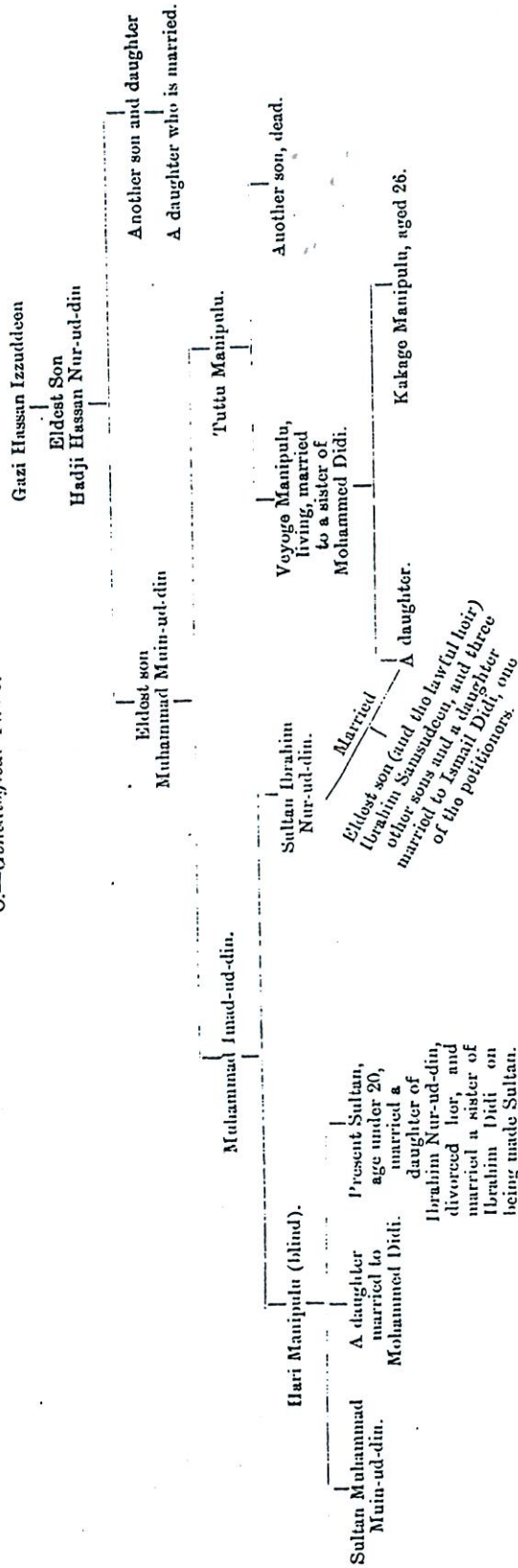
B.—*Letter received from Farna Kilege-fan and Private Letter to a Friend.*

From Maldives on the 4th day of Jumadiul Awwal, in the year 1311 of the Higira, with many compliments from the writer Vazier Noomra Goondwal Manifuroo Sahib Farna Kilege-fan.

Having the fear of God we entirely disapprove of the high-handed acts of the present ministers, who setting aside the just claim of the rightful heir, the late Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din's eldest son, have set another on the throne. Being helpless, though descended from the Sultan, we stand and see while Ibrahim Didi and Tutusidi and their adherents are terrorizing and perpetrating such injustice in the sight of heaven. Thus placed, we have learnt with joy that Syed Abdul Kader has memorialized His Excellency the Governor to intervene for the well-being of this benighted State. Be so good as to transmit to us news about the date on which we may be blessed with the sight of the long-expected man-of-war, in the absence of which we are drifting daily from bad to worse. To obtain independent testimony, the Commander of the man-of-war should summon each man separately to his presence. If all are called together in the presence of those now in power, nobody will have the courage to speak the truth, as the terrorism now prevailing here has made cowards of us all. We shall also be glad to state truly what we know if called and asked privately. So please draw His Excellency's attention to the necessity of instructing the Commander to act on this suggestion. We fear that if the rightful heir is not soon reinstated there would never be peace and order, and civil commotion may arise. In the reign of the late Sultan's father disturbance and disorder were unknown. He was our maternal uncle, and did nothing without consulting us on State matters. At present no one recognizes our age and standing and high descent. We are kept entirely in the dark as to the true contents of His Excellency's despatches, and a rumour has now been set afloat that His Excellency's despatches have been delivered by Carimjee Jafferjee's bagla "Ghelan," ratifying with approval the appointment of the present Sultan; but we think this to be untrue. Famdari Kilege-fan Hassan Didi Vazier and father-in-law of the late Sultan, a truly good and venerable man, descended of a high family, has been sent away in banishment without a fault at the advanced age of seventy years. So also poor decrepit Vazier Dakara Takur-fan, an invalid for the last two years, has been sent away, lifted into the boat by three men, to taste the bitterness of exile far from his native land. Many more innocent men have shared the same fate, and God only knows whose turn may come next. Persecution and self-aggrandizement reign supreme. Money realized from export and import duties is misappropriated by those in power, who are building themselves palaces, while our humble dwellings are thatched with cadjans, and God knows that even this is denied to poor Mohammed Didi's house. Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din was Mohammed Didi's uncle's son, and marrying Mohammed Didi's sister begot one son, who is a bright, intelligent lad of sixteen years, and is according to our laws and customs the rightful heir to the Sultanate. The second son by another wife is seven years old. The two brothers are kept entirely apart, and no communication is allowed between them. The elder is not allowed to see his mother, who since her husband's death has been sent out of the palace, and now lives in the house of Kakaje Mohammed Didi. May God and the Governor protect the just and rightful.

FARNA KILEGE-FAN.

C.—Genealogical Table.



D.—*Memorandum of the Laws and Usages regarding Succession prevailing in the Maldives.**

1. A deceased Sultan's eldest son alone must succeed his father. For that purpose he must be fifteen years of age, an age in which a young man is supposed to attain his majority. He must be a member of the royal family, of a sound mind, and free from bodily deformity and defects. He must not only be intelligent, but must also bear a good character. He must be one who can think and act on his own responsibility.

2. A Sultan, when about to die or abdicate his throne, may nominate his son as his successor, but the approval of his subjects is absolutely necessary to place him on the throne.

3. In case the eldest son is unfit to succeed him, a Sultan could nominate his own brother as his successor, but it is the approval of his subjects alone that makes such a nomination effectual.

4. If the Sultan's sons are all minors, he could nominate his own brother or nephew to succeed him, but the consent of the nominee and of the Sultan's subjects is absolutely necessary to give effect to such a nomination.

5. In a case of minors, a Sultan can appoint a Regent to govern the Sultanate till the minors are grown up, but the consent of the nominee and of the people is necessary to make such a nomination binding.

6. If a Sultan dies without appointing his successor or naming a Regent to govern during the minority of his children, the duty of appointing a Sultan rests with the people. They can appoint a man whom they think the most worthy for the post and place him on the throne, in spite of the disapproval of the ministers and other officers of the State.

7. In case the Sultan dies leaving no male issue, the people alone have the power of appointing their own Sultan.

8. The nobles and ministers may suggest a successor to a deceased Sultan, but the consent and approval of the people is necessary before he can sit on the throne.

In matters like these they, as Mohammedans, are guided by the Mohammedan Law, and follow the customs of their forefathers and the practices and usages prevailing in other Mohammedan countries.

No. 35.

His Highness Muhammad Imad-ud-din, son of Hassan Isudin, Sultan of the Maldives, to his honoured friend H. E. the worthy Governor of Ceylon.

MAY God bless His Excellency's undertakings and increase his army and wealth.

There existed a close friendship between Your Excellency's predecessors in office and ours. We desire that Your Excellency may likewise be gracious towards us; that there be even a greater friendship between us; and that Your Excellency show no favour to our enemies.

Further, we beg that Your Excellency will befriend and assist those of our seafaring countrymen who may be driven to your shores by stress of weather and send them back to us.

Further, we send this year's tribute in a small gundira by Vizier Hassan, the Captain of our Coasts. Please accept the same when he brings it, pardoning any shortcomings on his part, and send him back in good time.

Dated the 21st of Rabiul Ahir, 1311 A.H.

No. 36.

Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Imad-ud-din, Sultan of the Maldives.

Colombo, December 16, 1893.

I HAVE duly received Your Highness's letter of the 21st of Rabiul Ahir, 1311 A.H., together with the annual tribute of your Government to Her Majesty's Government of Ceylon, delivered to me by your ambassador the Vizier Hassan on the 5th of this month. I had pleasure in receiving the ambassador and in learning that when he left the Maldives Your Highness was in good health.

It was a satisfaction to me to learn from the ambassador that Your Highness had been selected to fill the throne of the Maldives, in accordance with Maldivian laws and customs, in succession to the Sultans who have invariably evinced towards the Government of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria much loyal friendship, enjoying in return its countenance and protection. During the past years in which I have administered the Government of Ceylon I have been glad to be able to report to Her Majesty's Government your predecessor's appreciation of the relations which have existed between the British Government and themselves. It would now give me equal pleasure to report to Her Majesty's Government Your Highness's accession to the Maldivian throne, but before I can do so it will be necessary for me, in pursuance of precedent and custom, to take steps whereby I can, on behalf of Her Gracious Majesty, formally recognize Your Highness as Sultan of the Maldivian Islands. To this end, therefore, I shall avail myself of the first opportunity that offers.

Your Highness's ambassador was able to report to me that when he left your country everything was quiet and in order, and I was interested to learn that the health of your subjects and the general welfare of the people were satisfactory.

The ambassador has been entrusted, for delivery to Your Highness, with a few presents from me, which will, I trust, be accepted as a token of the friendship of my Government.

In conclusion, I desire to assure Your Highness of my good wishes for the welfare of Your Highness and your country, and of my desire to assist you in every way that lies in my power.

May Your Highness enjoy a long and prosperous reign.

A. E. HAVELOCK.

No. 37.

Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G., to the Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.
Miscellaneous.—No. 442.

The Pavilion, Kandy,
 December 27, 1893.

MY LORD MARQUESS,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's despatch No. 280 of the 26th October, 1893, intimating to me that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have, at Your Lordship's request, agreed to detail one of Her Majesty's ships of war on the East India Station to convey an officer of this Government to the Maldives for the purpose of making inquiry into the present position of affairs in those Islands.

2. I beg to inform Your Lordship that I have accordingly arranged with the Naval Commander-in-Chief at this station that a ship of war should sail for the Maldives about the third week in January, when I shall despatch a trustworthy officer with instructions to convey to the present Sultan, Muhammad Imad-ud-din, the formal recognition of this Government, in the event of its being found that the Sultan has succeeded to the Sovereignty in accord with the laws and customs of the Islands, and with the consent of the people, and that local affairs are quiet and in order.

3. This I have good hope and some assurance is the case, for since the date of Sir Edward Walker's last despatch to Your Lordship's address, No. 320 of the 15th September, 1893, I have given audience to the ambassador of the present Sultan, who, attended by the chiefs of some of the principal islands, arrived in Colombo in the middle of last month with the usual annual tribute of spices, sweetmeats, &c.

4. This ambassador, as well as the chiefs of the Islands, has testified to the regularity of the succession of Muhammad Imad-ud-din, to the general acceptance by the people of that succession, and to the present peaceful condition of things prevailing in the Maldives.

5. On the other hand, however, it is necessary that I should inform Your Lordship that counter representations have been made to me by persons named Hadji Abdulla Didi and Ismail Didi, brothers of the late Prime Minister Mohammed Didi, who are married, one to the sister of the late Sultan and the other to the sister of the present Sultan of the Maldives.

6. These persons represent themselves to be individuals of great influence and importance in the Maldives, but I am not aware that that is the general local opinion. I enclose a copy of their communication of the 1st December, 1893,* which does not, in my opinion, call for much consideration; for the present Sultan's rightful succession does not appear to me to be barred either by the physical incapacity of his blind father, the eldest son of the Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din (whose name the present Sultan bears), or by the interval of his own minority.

7. I enclose also for Your Lordship's perusal a copy of the newspaper report of the interview granted by me to the ambassador of the Sultan on the 5th of this month,† together with a copy of the letter from the Sultan brought to me by the ambassador‡ and of my reply thereto§

8. Your Lordship will see from that reply that I have practically already recognized the present Sultan as such, though I have informed him that I should defer any formal recognition until I should have ascertained in the manner already specified that his position had been fully acquiesced in by his people, and that quiet and order were prevailing in his dominions.

9. I lay particular stress upon this fact, because Your Lordship's despatch now under reply appears to have been written, under an impression that something of the nature of a Commission of Inquiry was in contemplation, whilst, as circumstances now stand, it does not seem necessary that anything more than a ceremonial visit by an officer of this Government should take place, for the sake merely of verifying the assurance that I already feel as to the satisfactory settlement of affairs in the Islands, and of conveying to His Highness the formal recognition of his position which I have conditionally promised.

I have, &c.,

A. E. HAVELOCK.

No. 38.

INSTRUCTIONS to Gerald Browne, Esq., when proceeding to Malé, Maldive Islands.

Pavilion, Kandy,
 Ceylon, January 18, 1894.

MR. BROWNE will proceed in H.M.S. Brisk, Commander Streeton, R.N., about the 20th instant, to Malé, in the Maldive Islands. On arrival at that place Mr. Browne will seek an interview with the Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din for the purpose of explaining, with reference to the message sent recently to His Highness by His Excellency the Governor through the Maldivé ambassador, the object of his mission, and of presenting his Commission to represent the Governor.

Mr. Browne will endeavour during his stay at Malé to ascertain whether Muhammad Imad-ud-din has been appointed according to the laws and customs of the Islands, by the wish of the people, and whether order and confidence in his Government prevail. If satisfied on these points, Mr. Browne will ask for a second audience, and will deliver to His Highness Muhammad Imad-ud-din the accompanying letter¶ of recognition by the Governor of Ceylon as the Sultan of the Maldivé Islands. He will thereupon ask the Commander of H.M.S. Brisk to salute the Sultan's flag in token of the recognition of His Highness as Sultan.

No. 39.

Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Imad-ud-din, Sultan of the Maldivé Islands.

The Pavilion, Kandy,
 Ceylon, January 18, 1894.

IN my letter to Your Highness dated the 16th of last month I informed you that I had learnt with satisfaction from your ambassador that Your Highness had been selected, in accordance with Maldivian laws and customs, to fill the throne of the Maldives in succession to the Sultans who have

* See No. 34.

† Not printed.

‡ See No. 35.

§ See No. 36.

¶ See No. 39.

filled that high office before you, and who have invariably evinced towards the Government of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen much loyal friendship. I learnt also with pleasure that everything was quiet and in order in your dominions.

I informed Your Highness also in that letter that it would be a pleasure to me to report to Her Majesty's Government Your Highness's accession, but that before I could do so it would be necessary to take steps whereby I could formally recognize Your Highness as Sultan.

I charged Your Highness's ambassador to explain to you that it was my intention to send an officer in a ship of war to the Maldives with instructions, if he finds everything in order, to recognize Your Highness as Sultan, and to salute Your Highness's flag.

The officer whom I have commissioned to this duty as representing me will, on being satisfied on these points, deliver this letter to Your Highness, and your flag will be saluted in token of such recognition.

I have now great pleasure, by this letter, to confirm and recognize you, in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, as Sultan of the Maldives in succession to the late Sultan, under the same mutual understanding and conditions as the act of recognition of Your Highness's predecessor.

I trust that Your Highness will long live to reign over your dominions in quietness and prosperity.

A. E. HAVELOCK.

No. 40.

Gerald Browne, Esq., to Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G.

Colombo, January 29, 1894.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to report that having, under Your Excellency's instructions, left Colombo in H.M.S. Brisk, Commander C. P. Streeton, on the 22nd instant, I arrived at Malé at midday on the 24th instant, after a passage of forty-seven hours.

2. The Sultan's ministers came on board shortly afterwards, and a time was appointed for Captain Streeton and myself to pay a visit to His Highness, which we did that afternoon. The Sultan received us in State in his palace, whither we were conducted by the ministers and numerous others. After an exchange of the usual compliments I recalled to His Highness the substance of your Excellency's recent letter and verbal message by the Ambassador Hassan Didi (who was himself present), and I explained that it was in pursuance of the promise then made that I had been sent to him with the Commission, which I thereupon caused to be read. I added that I should hope to have the honour of another audience on the business of my mission, and we shortly afterwards withdrew. We then proceeded to pay a visit to Ibrahim Didi, the Prime Minister, at his house, and conversed there for some time with him and other ministers.

3. The Sultan Imad-ud-din is a man of thirty years of age, of good features, and intelligent expression of face. He appears to lack confidence in himself, and to be wholly dependent upon his advisers in word and action. He showed much nervousness at both the interviews I had with him, which however passed off when we came to talk on general subjects, and when he was on board ship.

4. During the following day I had a long conversation on board with Ibrahim Didi on matters affecting my mission. I also sent for and conversed at length with Mohammed Didi, the leader of the rival faction. I made it generally known that I was ready and anxious to see every one who had anything to say to me, and during my walks on shore had opportunities of talking with a number of persons, including Indian traders.

5. It may be convenient that I should recapitulate shortly the events of the last fourteen months, since the death of the Sultan Nur-ud-din, as gathered by me from my conversations with Ibrahim Didi, Mohammed Didi, and others.

6. A younger son of the late Sultan having been nominated by the Sultan as his successor, he was accepted accordingly by the people. His nomination and succession was at once reported to the Ceylon Government, in whose protection of the boy, until he should grow up, his father expressed his confidence. The letter which was received by the ministers in reply inquired what were the laws and customs governing succession to the Maldivian throne, and whether he was the *eldest* son of the deceased Sultan and the rightful heir. This was understood to imply a preference to the eldest son, and a readiness to recognize the latter. A faction in favour of the eldest son arose, and he was placed on the throne instead of his brother, with the late Sultan's elder brother's son (now Sultan) as Regent. Mohammed Didi appears to have returned to Malé at this juncture, and to have taken a leading part in Government affairs, causing Ibrahim Didi and the other ministers to retire in dissatisfaction at the turn matters had taken. During the few months that this *régime* lasted, affairs were conducted by Mohammed Didi and his supporters, and resulted in so much dissatisfaction that by general agreement Imad-ud-din was recognized as the most suitable man to be Sultan, and was, at a public meeting of all the inhabitants of Malé and of such of the neighbouring islands as could be assembled, declared Sultan and seated in the State chair by acclamation. Ibrahim Didi was himself absent from this meeting on account of illness, but gave his assent by deputy. This occurred about six and a half months ago, and since that time things have remained quiet and orderly. No disturbances, such as reported in the newspapers here, have, I was assured, at any time occurred during the period I speak of.

7. Mohammed Didi repeatedly assured me that he was perfectly satisfied with the present Sultan, and that he had been duly and properly elected. It was His Highness's present advisers to whom he found objection.

8. I inquired particularly the laws and customs with regard to the succession to the Sultanate. The Mohammedan law of the succession of the eldest male appears to be modified in practice. I gathered that according to the Mohammedan law and local custom *the best man* of the reigning family, not necessarily the son of the last Sultan, is selected. The Sultan usually nominates the man whom he wishes to succeed, and who may then be declared his successor, but the nomination has no more force than a recommendation to his people's suffrages. The assent or election by the people is essential to a Sultan's accession. If no successor is nominated, I was given to understand that

preference is given to the eldest son over a younger, and to a son over another relation. The election is carried out at a public meeting of all the inhabitants of Malé, and of such of the other islands as can be got together, assembled for the purpose. The Sultan-designate is brought forward by the ministers and chief persons, and seated by acclamation in his chair or throne.

9. The incapacity of a father to sign (as in the present case where Imad-ud-din's father, an elder brother of the late Sultan and still living, is blind) does not affect the son.

10. The Sultan-designate need not have attained any particular age, but if he is too young to conduct affairs himself a Regent or Council is appointed to govern for him. There is no fixed age of majority.

11. Everything which I heard and saw tended to satisfy me that the present Sultan Imad-ud-din has been appointed in accordance with the laws and customs of the Islands by the wish of the people, and that order and confidence in his Government prevail.

12. I accordingly demanded a second interview on Friday morning, at which, after stating that I had done so for the purpose of fulfilling the final object of my mission, I handed to the Sultan Your Excellency's letter, which was thereupon opened, and I presented to His Highness the sword and other presents with which I was entrusted. I recalled to the minds of the Sultan and his ministers (who are, I may mention, the same who served with the late Sultan Nur-ud-din) the points of the mutual conditions and understanding on which this recognition was accorded, and of which they were fully aware. I informed His Highness that I would now ask Captain Streeton to proceed with his instructions to salute his flag. This was done at noon, immediately before the Sultan went, as customary on Friday, to mosque, and the salute was returned from the shore at 2.30 P.M. after the ceremony at the mosque was completed.

13. On leaving the Sultan's presence we visited in another part of the palace the late Sultan's eldest son, a boy of thirteen years of age, and afterwards his second son, eight years of age, and nominated successor, who lives with Ahmed, son of Ibrahim Didi, and husband of the boy's own sister. Returning through another part of the palace we saw the late Sultan's two other sons, boys of about two and three years of age. Both Captain Streeton and myself were struck by the happy and natural manner of these children, and the affectionate kindness with which they were treated.

14. The Sultan came on board by Captain Streeton's invitation at 3.30 P.M., accompanied by his brother and by a large following. He was shown over the ship by Captain Streeton, who kindly fired a shell, discharged a torpedo, &c., for his entertainment.

15. Before taking leave the Sultan desired me to convey to Your Excellency his expression of friendship and loyalty and of thanks for the recognition accorded to him, and to beg that an assurance of his loyal devotion might be laid before Her Majesty the Queen. I was also to ask that a ship of war might visit Malé every year.

16. His Highness was saluted with twenty-one guns on leaving H.M.S. Brisk, and we immediately afterwards weighed anchor and reached Colombo again during last night, after a passage of fifty-two hours.

17. In my interview with the Prime Minister I asked for information with regard to the indebtedness of the Maldivian Government. He informed me that a sum of about Rs. 100,000 was owing to the firm of Carimjee Jafferjee; that this debt, which was originally contracted some thirty years ago, and was at one time larger than at present, was being paid off slowly; that during Sultan Nur-ud-din's reign it was being steadily reduced; that after his death this reduction was interrupted, but that during the past six months some progress had again been made. With regard to the alleged specially favourable treatment and privilege accorded to this firm, of which complaints have been heard in Colombo, but which were not made a ground of complaint to me locally, he explained that the exemption from payment of customs duty of one of this firm's trading boats had been allowed in Sultan Nur-ud-din's time as a fair commutation of the interest which would otherwise have to be paid on the debt. The duty on imports is one-twelfth of all goods imported. The traders whom I saw on shore, and whom I questioned as to the customs rate in force, in order to give them an opportunity of referring to this matter, made no complaint of unequal treatment. I ventured to offer to Ibrahim Didi a word of advice on the advisability of avoiding, if possible, any ground of complaint on the part of the Bombay merchants in this matter.

18. The water at Malé is of so unwholesome a nature that the Sultan and others who can afford to do so procure their supply of drinking water from Colombo. Captain Streeton kindly offered a present of some water from his ship, but unfortunately it could not be taken off. On the occasion of any ship of war again going there a supply of fresh water would be much appreciated, and Captain Streeton has suggested that it would be easy to fill up with water for this purpose. Presents of fresh meat for the crew, and of mats, shells, and curiosities were sent on board. I hold the latter, awaiting any instructions as to their disposal.

19. In conclusion, I would beg leave to say that thanks are due to Captain Streeton for his kind and ready co-operation and support, and for his successful efforts to impress and entertain the Sultan and his people. Abdul Careem, Mudaliyar, who accompanied me as interpreter, carried out his duty with zeal and cheerful readiness. He is well known in Malé, and his personal acquaintance and friendship with the leading people of both factions enabled him to be of much service.

I have, &c.,

GERALD BROWNE.

No. 41.

Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G., to the Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.

Miscellaneous.—No. 43.

Queen's House, Colombo,
Ceylon, February 14, 1894.

MY LORD MARQUESS,—With reference to my despatch No. 442 of the 27th December last,* I have the honour to report that I selected Mr. Gerald Browne, who was formerly my Private Secretary, and who is now Secretary of the Central Irrigation Board, to proceed to the Maldives by H.M.S. Brisk,

which was placed at my disposal, with the view of ascertaining whether His Highness Muhammad Imad-ud-din had duly succeeded to the Sultanate according to the Maldivian laws and customs, and also whether order and confidence in his Government prevailed.

2. I enclose copy of the instructions issued to Mr. Browne.*

3. Mr. Browne left for the Maldives on the 22nd ultimo, and returned on the 28th ultimo. I now beg to submit for Your Lordship's information copy of his letter† reporting the result of his mission. It will be seen therefrom that the Maldivians were satisfied that the Sultan had been properly elected, that order and tranquility prevail, and that His Highness has consequently been duly recognized in the name of Her Majesty the Queen.

4. I enclose copy of the formal letter of recognition‡ which was handed to the Sultan by Mr. Browne on my behalf.

5. Mr. Browne has, in my opinion, shown both tact and ability in carrying out his mission, and it gives me pleasure to bring to Your Lordship's notice the highly efficient manner in which he has performed the duty with which he was charged, and the clear and interesting report he has made of his proceedings.

I have, &c.,

A. E. HAVELOCK.

No. 42.

The Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G., to Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G.

Ceylon.—No. 102.

Downing street, April 7, 1894.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 43 of the 14th February last, forwarding a report by Mr. Gerald Browne upon his visit to the Maldivian Islands in connection with the question of the succession to the Sultanate of those Islands.

2. I am glad to acknowledge the tact and ability shown by Mr. Browne in the conduct of this mission.

3. I observe that the Sultan has expressed a wish that a British man-of-war may be allowed to visit the Islands once a year, and on learning that you see no objection to such a course I will ask the Lords of the Admiralty to make arrangements for such periodical visits.

4. Possibly on some future occasion it may be found practicable to give the Islanders the benefit of expert advice with regard to their water supply.

I have, &c.,

RIPON.

No. 43.

Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G., to the Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.

Miscellaneous.—No. 144.

Queen's Cottage, Nuwara Eliya,
Ceylon, April 29, 1894.

MY LORD MARQUESS,—WITH reference to my despatch No. 43 of the 14th February last, I have the honour to transmit two petitions addressed to Your Lordship by Mohammed Didi on the subject of the Sultanate of the Maldivian Islands.

2. I received Mohammed Didi on the 23rd March last, when he presented to me the first of the two petitions, dated the 20th March, 1894. I enclose for Your Lordship's information a copy of the notes of what was said at the interview, and also a copy of the letter addressed by me to the Sultan with regard to the alleged treatment of the nephew of the petitioner and of his relatives.

3. The petitioner having in the 8th and 9th paragraph of his petition alluded to Mr. Browne's mission to the Maldives, I thought it right to cause the petition to be referred to Mr. Browne, and I now beg to submit for Your Lordship's information a copy of that officer's report.

4. With regard to the insinuations made against Abdul Careem, Mudaliyar, who acted as interpreter to Mr. Browne, I beg to state that I have no reason to doubt Abdul Careem's good faith in interpreting. Abdul Careem is a Mohammedan gentleman residing at Galle, who served the Ceylon Government with credit for many years, and who was awarded a special pension on account of his special merit. He has previously acted as interpreter for the Government at the Maldives, and his way of discharging his duty in this capacity earned for him the confidence and good opinion of my predecessors.

5. I beg further to add that if the present Sultan had not been raised to the throne with the consent of the majority of the people, the existence of very widespread dissatisfaction with His Highness's succession and rule could not altogether have escaped the notice of Mr. Browne or the Commander of the man-of-war. I do not believe that any such dissatisfaction exists.

6. The second memorial, dated the 28th March, does not seem to call for any further remarks. It enters into the same subjects as the first petition, which were commented on in Mr. Browne's report. It deals with some points of succession which are not new, and which have already been fully considered. It also states the family connections of the Sultan and of the ministers, but this does not seem to affect the question of the rights or position of the reigning Sultan.

7. The reigning Sultan has, as far as can be ascertained, succeeded to the Sultanate in accordance with the traditions and customs of the Maldives. His rule appears to give satisfaction to the Maldivians; it is supported by the ablest and most influential men of the community, and it maintains order and tranquility in the Islands. I believe that under such circumstances Her Majesty's Government have no right, even if they had a wish, to interfere in the manner suggested by Mohammed Didi.

I have, &c.,

A. E. HAVELOCK.

* See No. 38.

† See No. 40.

‡ See No. 39.

THE MALDIVE ISLANDS.

43

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 43.

Mohammed Didi to Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G.

Colombo, Ceylon,
March 20, 1894.

THE respectful petition of Mohammed Didi, now in Ceylon, Colombo, sheweth as follows:—

That the petitioner begs to forward herewith a petition addressed by him to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, and prays that it may please Your Excellency to forward it.

That when on a previous occasion the petitioner memorialized the Governor, when Your Excellency was absent in England, the Hon. the Lieutenant-Governor, in reply to his memorial, said that the Government of Ceylon could not interfere in any manner in the local affairs of the Islands and in matters of purely internal concern. It is for this reason that the petitioner memorializes Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

That the petitioner is not in a position to conjecture whether Your Excellency can and will interfere in the matter which he now represents to the Secretary of State; but if Your Excellency can and will entertain the matter, much delay can be avoided. Usurpation of a throne is a serious matter, and the petitioner trusts that Your Excellency, as the ruler of this Island, and having control over the Maldivé Islands, will interfere in the matter.

That the petitioner's nephew, the rightful heir to the throne, is a veritable prisoner. His servants were expelled, and servants who would obey the behests of the usurper have been put on to attend to him. He is, in fact, under espionage, and bound by the fetters of thralldom.

Wherefore the petitioner prays that it may please Your Excellency graciously to forward the enclosed petition to the Secretary of State, and until His Lordship's reply is received the petitioner begs that it may please Your Excellency to direct the Sultan to allow the petitioner's nephew and his mother and relations to come to Ceylon.

For which act of goodness the petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

MOHAMMED DIDI.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure No. 1 in No. 43.

Mohammed Didi to the Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.

Colombo, Ceylon,
March 20, 1894.

THE respectful petition of Mohammed Didi, now in Ceylon, sheweth as follows:—

That Your Lordship's petitioner is an uncle of Ibrahim Samsuddeen, the legitimate rightful heir to the throne of the Maldivé Islands. The petitioner would memorialize His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon but for the fact that in a previous matter the Lieutenant-Governor of Ceylon, then administering the Government of that Island, when appealed to, said that "the Government of Ceylon could not interfere in any manner in the local affairs of the Islands and in matters of purely internal concern."

That the late Muhammad Imad-ud-din died leaving two children, namely, Dorre Manipu and Ibrahim Nur-ud-din. At the death of Ibrahim Nur-ud-din his eldest son Ibrahim Samsuddeen was not allowed to ascend the throne, but the young son Muhammad Imad-ud-din, a boy of seven years, was placed on the throne on the pretext that the father had desired that the younger son should succeed him. The people protested against the enthronement of the younger son, and in consequence of the protest by the people the elder son Ibrahim Samsuddeen was placed on the throne. The object of those who placed the younger son was to misappropriate the revenues of the Island for their own aggrandizement.

That when the eldest son was, in deference to the voice of the people, placed on the throne, his cousin Muhammad Imad-ud-din was entrusted with the administration of public affairs because of the youth of the said Ibrahim Samsuddeen, the rightful heir to the throne. Not long after the accession of the rightful heir to the throne Ibrahim Didi, now Prime Minister, and his two brothers-in-law Tutu Sidi and Hussan Didi, the Treasurer and the Collector of Revenue respectively, caused the deposition of the rightful heir and reigning Sultan Ibrahim Samsuddeen and placed the present reigning Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din on the throne.

That the present reigning Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din has no right whatever to the throne. His father, the eldest son of Muhammad Imad-ud-din, having been blind, and consequently not having ascended the throne, the right to the throne could not vest in his son, and therefore the eldest son of Ibrahim Nur-ud-din, namely, Ibrahim Samsuddeen, should be the king.

That many of the prominent people of the Islands protested against the usurpation of the throne by Muhammad Imad-ud-din, and the result of such a protest was that they were exiled to some of the obscure islands, and thus prevented from representing matters to the British Government or to the British authorities in Ceylon.

That in anticipation that representations would be made to the Ceylon Government, negotiations were carried on with some members of the Public Service of Ceylon by the usurper's minions. The petitioner does not hesitate to say that heavy bribes were offered to and received by some of those members of the Public Service. One result of those negotiations was that Carimjee Jafferjee, a merchant in Ceylon, Abdul Careem, Mudaliyar, of Galle, and Hussan Didi, the Collector of Revenue of the Maldivé Islands, who had come to Colombo, went to the Maldivé Islands and menaced to punish any person who would oppose Muhammad Imad-ud-din, "the usurper," and promulgated the false rumour that the Government of Ceylon had approved his enthronement as Sultan. At this juncture a few of those who protested were exiled *in terrorem*. The three persons referred to went in the steamer Lady Havelock. That simultaneously with the usurpation of the throne the demolition of the State document was consummated by means of incendiarism. The object was the obliteration of all traces which could establish the right of the legitimate heir to the throne. The whole contents of the Treasury was burnt, and it was pretended that the rightful heir's uncle had set the fire.

That when the younger brother of the rightful heir was placed on the throne, the petitioner on behalf of the rightful heir came to Ceylon and submitted matters to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon personally and in writing. Sir Edward Noel Walker was then administering the Government of Ceylon.

That the petitioner, after the usurpation referred to, took no steps to place the rightful heir to the throne. An ambassador, Hassan Didi, in the usual course came to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon as ambassador of the Sultan. His Excellency doubted the credentials of the ambassador and the right of the reigning Sultan for reasons which the petitioner is not aware of; and His Excellency sent to the Maldives a Commissioner in the person of Mr. Browne.

After Mr. Browne's arrival at the Maldives he saw the Sultan at his palace, and he also saw Ibrahim Didi at his house. On the same day Mr. Browne went back to the ship. The Sultan had issued an edict prohibiting all persons going to the man-of-war which took Mr. Browne to the Maldives. On the second day Mr. Browne came ashore again, had a walk, and went back to the ship. On the third day, too, he came ashore, saw the Sultan, spoke to him and others who were interested in the Sultan, and went back to the ship and returned to Ceylon.

That during the stay of the man-of-war in the harbour Abdul Careem, who accompanied Mr. Browne as interpreter, inquired of the petitioner whether he was going to the ship. On the petitioner answering in the affirmative Abdul Careem said that he was also going to the ship, and both of them went to the ship.

The petitioner went to the ship and sat down. Mr. Browne spoke to him through his interpreter Abdul Careem. The petitioner could not understand what Mr. Browne and the interpreter spoke, but the interpreter made the petitioner understand that the Governor of Ceylon would not approve of the conduct of any person who disliked or opposed the reigning Sultan. Mr. Browne inquired from the petitioner about the country. The petitioner told Mr. Browne that the people were averse to the usurpation of the throne by Muhammad Imad-ud-din, but whether the interpreter conveyed the fact to Mr. Browne or not he could not say. The interpreter told the petitioner that he need not speak on that subject, as Mr. Browne had no power to do anything.

That the petitioner is confident that Your Lordship will not allow the throne of the Maldives to be occupied by one who is not legitimately entitled to it. When Muhammad Imad-ud-din had died, the father of the now reigning Sultan should have certainly succeeded him, but as he was blind he was not called to the throne, and his brother Ibrahim Nur-ud-din succeeded him. Ibrahim Nur-ud-din having died, his son Ibrahim Samsuddeen was entitled to succeed him. Ibrahim Samsuddeen's claim was overlooked, and his younger brother Muhammad Imad-ud-din was made Sultan. When the people protested against this violation of the law of inheritance the younger brother was deposed, and the eldest in the family was placed on the throne. But he was not permitted to reign long. He was deposed, and contrary to the law of the Islands the son of the blind man Dorre Manipu was permitted to supplant the rightful heir. Dorre Manipu's son Muhammad Imad-ud-din has no right whatever to the throne. The right to the throne never vested in Dorre Manipu, the blind man, and his son could not therefore succeed. The right, whether to a throne or to property, should vest in a parent before the son can be entitled to succeed as heir. Dorre Manipu never ascended the throne, hence his son, the Sultan now reigning, could not succeed him. The legitimate heir is the petitioner's nephew, who came to the throne, but was deposed in order to place Muhammad Imad-ud-din on the throne. It is necessary to submit to Your Lordship that the present reigning Sultan was placed on the throne by Ibrahim Didi, now Prime Minister, and his two brothers-in-law Tuttu Sidi and Hassan Didi with the object of benefiting themselves, and not in the interest of the Islands.

Wherefore the petitioner prays that it may please Your Lordship to direct the Governor of Ceylon to investigate the claims and to see that the rightful heir is placed on the throne of the Maldives.

For which act of justice the petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

MOHAMMED DIDI.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 43.

Mohammed Didi to Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G.

No. 82, Kuruwe street,
Colombo, Ceylon, March 28, 1894.

THE respectful petition of Mohammed Didi, now in Ceylon, No. 82, Kuruwe street, Colombo, sheweth as follows:—

That the petitioner begs first of all to tender to Your Excellency his heartfelt thanks for the interview accorded to him by Your Excellency at Nuwara Eliya, and especially for the patience with which Your Excellency listened to him and interrogated him with a view to the ascertainment of the truth.

That the petitioner, in consequence of the interview referred to, is obliged to forward to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies a second petition, and he begs to send the same herewith, and most respectfully to request that it may please Your Excellency to forward the same to His Lordship. The matters contained in the accompanying petition could not be personally submitted to Your Excellency, as the petitioner had not in his possession at the time the names of the persons mentioned in it.

Wherefore the petitioner begs it may please Your Excellency to transmit the petition herewith forwarded to the Secretary of State.

For which act of favour the petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

MOHAMMED DIDI.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure No. 2 in No. 43.

Mohammed Didi to the Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.

Colombo, Ceylon,
No. 82, Kuruwe street, March 28, 1894.

The respectful petition of Mohammed Didi, now in Ceylon, No. 82, Kuruwe street, Colombo, sheweth as follows :—

That the petitioner presented to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon a petition dated the 20th March instant addressed to Your Lordship. At the petitioner's request the Governor most graciously accorded him an interview, for which he shall ever be deeply grateful. In consequence of that interview the petitioner has to forward, through His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon, this petition, which he prays may be read and considered as a part of his petition of the 20th March.

That in his previous petition the petitioner stated the present reigning Sultan of the Maldive Islands was not the rightful heir to the throne, because his father, a blind man, had not ascended the throne, and *ipso facto* his son could not succeed. The Mohammedan laws as laid down by the holy Prophet Mohamet have been fundamental laws of the Maldive Islands, as they have been of every other country in which Mohammedanism has been predominant, and any Mohammedan nation would not countenance or be ruled by a law incompatible with the Mohammedan laws laid down by Mohamet, and on which all other laws have been based. In addition to the facts submitted in his previous petition, the petitioner will submit to Your Lordship certain other facts which will convince you that the present Sultan is not the rightful heir.

That the late Hassan Hizzudeen ruled the Islands during seven years and upwards, and was succeeded by the elder of his two sons, Muhammad Mohobudeen, who reigned also for about the same period. Muhammad Mohobudeen died leaving children, the eldest of whom was a daughter. The daughter could not succeed the father according to the laws of the Islands, and his younger brother Hassan Merudeen ascended the throne.

That the said Hassan Merudeen governed the Islands during twenty years, and died leaving two sons, one of whom was Muhammad Muin-ud-din. He was called to the throne and reigned thirty-seven years. He also left two sons, the eldest of whom, Muhammad Imad-ud-din, succeeded him. He reigned forty-nine years leaving two sons, namely, Dorre Manipu having been blind, the younger son Ibrahim Nur-ud-din was proclaimed Sultan.

That Ibrahim Nur-ud-din having died, his second son Muhammad Imad-ud-din was unjustly and contrary to the laws of the Islands placed on the throne, and the rightful heir, the eldest son Ibrahim Samsuddeen, was thus supplanted. This fact has been mentioned in the previous petition to Your Lordship, as also the fact that when the people protested against the enthronement of the second son instead of the eldest son, the legitimate heir to the throne, the eldest son, whose righteous claims had been deliberately overlooked, was placed on the throne, and the second son was deposed.

That it is of paramount importance to submit to Your Lordship that the second son of Ibrahim Nur-ud-din was placed on the throne by Ibrahim Didi, Hassan Didi, and Tuttu Didi, for the accomplishment of their own ends. After the deposition of the second son, the first son, the rightful heir, was called to the throne by the voice of the people, but he was not allowed, as he lawfully should have been, to continue to occupy the throne, because if he had continued to occupy the throne the three individuals above-mentioned would have been precluded from misappropriating the revenues of the Islands. It is of no less importance to submit to Your Lordship that Muhammad Imad-ud-din married for the second time the sister of Ibrahim Didi, the present Prime Minister, *after his enthronement*. His former wife was the daughter of the late Sultan, and she was divorced. The present Sultan's brother married Tuttu Didi's daughter. The third brother of the present Sultan married Hassan Didi's daughter. Tuttu Didi and Hassan Didi married the sisters of Ibrahim Didi. The close connection by affinity of the present Sultan to the present ministers is thus clear, and is significant of the fact that these ministers, who virtually rule the Islands, have placed on the throne one who is not entitled to it, with the object of serving their own purposes.

That there was a promise on the part of the British Government that it would protect the Maldivian Government from any foreign aggression and invasion. The Maldivian Government depends entirely on the British Government, and in a matter of such importance as the present the petitioner trusts that Your Lordship will give your most earnest consideration. What the petitioner complains of is that the present Sultan has no right to occupy the throne, and that the ministers to serve their own ends placed on the throne one who has no right to it.

That it has been submitted hereinbefore that Muhammad Mohobudeen's daughter had not ascended the throne, though she was his eldest child. This was because she was a female. After her father's death her father's brother was called to the throne, and she was excluded. In accordance with the Mohammedan laws the present Sultan has no right to the throne, his father never having occupied it owing to his blindness. The present Sultan was placed on the throne as the outcome of a plot by which the Prime Minister Ibrahim Didi and the others interested were to be benefited, both by the ties of marriage and pecuniarily.

Wherefore the petitioner prays that it may please Your Lordship, in the interests of justice, to direct that the matters contained in this petition and in the previous petition be investigated, and the rightful heir be caused to be placed on the throne of the Maldive Islands.

For which act of favour the petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

MOHAMMED DIDI.

Enclosure No. 3 in No. 43.

NOTES taken during an Interview granted by His Excellency the Governor to Mohammed Didi of the Maldive Islands.

MOHAMMED Didi stated that he had received a letter from Sir E. Walker in 1893, by which he was informed that the Ceylon Government would not interfere with the internal government of the Maldive Islands. Having handed this letter to His Excellency, he proceeded to state that when the

last Sultan died they placed the younger of his two sons on the throne. The people protested, and he came over and saw Sir E. Walker, and after that the elder brother was put up; then he was deposed, and the blind man's son was put on the throne.

On Mr. Browne going there no person supporting the claimant (the elder brother of the two sons of the Sultan last dead) was allowed to see him.

His Excellency : Did the claimant not see Mr. Browne ?

Mohammed Didi : The claimant did see Mr. Browne, but could not speak to him.

His Excellency : How does he know that ?

Mohammed Didi : Mr. Browne inquired of the claimant if he was well, and he replied he was well.

His Excellency : Were you present at the interview ?

Mohammed Didi : Yes.

Mohammed Didi, continuing, said : All those persons who were interested in the claimant's side have been exiled to a remote island of the Maldives, and are consequently in a kind of custody.

His Excellency : Is Mohammed Didi himself exiled ?

Mohammed Didi : He was told to go away with his children.

His Excellency : Did he go ?

Mohammed Didi : Yes.

His Excellency : Where did he go to ?

Mohammed Didi : Ceylon.

His Excellency : Did they make any difficulty about his leaving the Island for Ceylon ?

Mohammed Didi : No, none.

His Excellency : Where are you going to after you leave Ceylon ?

Mohammed Didi : To Minicoy.

His Excellency : How did you come here ?

Mohammed Didi : In a bugala belonging to Musa-bai, a merchant at the Maldives.

Mohammed Didi then, being asked if there was anything else he wanted, said he wished His Excellency to order that his nephews, who are prisoners, and their mother may be brought over to Ceylon.

His Excellency : Did not the Sultan prevent you coming over to Ceylon ?

Mohammed Didi : No, the Sultan wanted him to leave.

Mohammed Didi then again requested that His Excellency would order the Sultan to send the two young men and their mother to Ceylon.

His Excellency then explained that he would not order the Sultan to send them over, but would tell him that these young men and their mother are free to come if they choose.

March 22, 1894.

Enclosure No. 4 in No. 43.

Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G., to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives.

Ceylon, April 4, 1904.

I HAVE to inform Your Highness that on the 22nd March I granted an interview to Mohammed Didi, when he represented to me that his nephew, whom he calls the rightful heir to the throne, is a veritable prisoner at the Maldives, and he has requested me to direct Your Highness to permit his nephew and his nephew's mother and relatives to come to Ceylon.

2. I have replied to Mohammed Didi that I would not direct Your Highness to let these persons come to Ceylon, but that I would tell Your Highness that they are free to come here if they wish to do so.

A. E. HAVELOCK.

Enclosure No. 5 in No. 43.

Gerald Browne, Esq., to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Maldivian Affairs.

Colombo, April 7, 1894.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to return the petition from Mohammed Didi, enclosing a memorial to the Secretary of State, with my report upon their contents, called for by your letter dated the 4th instant.

I have, &c.,

GERALD BROWNE.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure No. 5 in No. 43.

REPORT on Petition from Mohammed Didi dated 20th March, 1894.

I THINK that, with regard to the first seven paragraphs of the petition to the Secretary of State, there is nothing I can add to what I have said in my report of 29th January last. The statements in paragraphs 4 and 10, with regard to the legitimacy of the present Sultan's succession, are in contradiction to what I have stated in paragraphs 8 and 9 of my report.

2. I believe the assertion in paragraph 8, that the Sultan had issued an edict prohibiting all persons "going to the man-of-war," to be untrue. In the following paragraph Mohammed Didi, against whom such an edict would, if against any one, be specially directed and enforced, conveys the impression that he was on the point of going on board of himself, when I sent to fetch him.

3. In paragraph 9 the petitioner avails himself of the fact that my interview with him was necessarily conducted through an interpreter, who would have it in his power to misrepresent what was said on either side, to suggest that such was the case. I can only say that I feel confident that Abdul Careem, Mudaliyar, acted honestly and loyally and interpreted to the best of his ability. With regard to the statement that Mohammed Didi was told that he needed not speak on that subject (the alleged opposition of the people to the present Sultan), as Mr. Browne had no power "to do anything," I would repeat what I have already reported to His Excellency verbally. Mohammed Didi, towards the close of our conversation, said that he wished to go to Ceylon to see the Governor. I inquired with what object he desired to do so. He stated that he wished to represent the state of affairs in the Maldives. I told him, in reply, that I was there commissioned by the Governor to hear everything that he or others might have to say on the subject. I added that if before I left matters were settled by the recognition and salute of the present Sultan, he must regard that action as irrevocable; that any such visit and representation would therefore only tend to disquiet people's minds; and I assured him emphatically that anything which might have such an effect would be exceedingly displeasing to the Governor. I discouraged him from any such action or further agitation, understanding, as I do, that the Government has no right nor power to interfere with the succession, beyond according or withholding its recognition. The only course open would be to withdraw the recognition now given, a course which, without strong grounds, would destroy much of the moral value similar recognition might in future possess in the popular mind. Unfortunately, I think my effort did not avail. Mohammed Didi has come to Ceylon, and incorrect accounts of the interview which has been accorded to him have appeared in the local papers, and will doubtless be sent by Mohammed Didi's sympathizers to the Maldives, where they cannot fail to have some effect in disquieting people's minds.

4. I do not think fuller opportunity could have been given to any of the opposition faction who had representations to make. I should gladly have remained longer at Malé had there seemed to be any reason for doing so. Mohammed Didi was, in spite of himself, given the fullest opportunity and encouraged to say what he wished. Captain Streeton, to whom I have yesterday had an opportunity of speaking on the subject, concurs with me that his present statements are at variance with those he made at our interview at Malé (see paragraph 7 of my report). He also agrees with me that the condition of the late Sultan's eldest son, Mohammed Didi's nephew, whom Mohammed Didi now asks that the Sultan may be directed to send with his mother to Ceylon, had certainly no appearance of his being "under espionage and bound by the fetters of thralldom," as stated in M. Didi's covering petition to His Excellency the Governor!

Colombo, April 7, 1894.

GERALD BROWNE.

No. 44.

Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G., to the Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.

Miscellaneous.—No. 174.

Queen's House, Colombo,
Ceylon, May 18, 1894.

MY LORD MARQUESS,—IN reply to the 3rd paragraph of Your Lordship's despatch No. 102 of the 7th ultimo, I have the honour to state that not only do I see no objection to annual visits to the Maldiv Islands by a British man-of-war, but I think such visits would be distinctly of advantage.

2. With regard to the 4th paragraph of the despatch, I beg to state that I will try to carry out Your Lordship's suggestion to give the Maldivians the benefit of expert advice in the matter of their water supply.

I have, &c.,

A. E. HAVELOCK.

No. 45.

The Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G., to Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G.

Ceylon.—No. 164.

Downing street, June 6, 1894.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 144 of the 29th April last, forwarding memorials addressed to me by Mohammed Didi on the subject of the succession to the Sultanate of the Maldiv Islands, and reporting that you had communicated with the Sultan as regards the alleged treatment of the relatives of the petitioner.

I approve of your action in the matter, and the petitioner should be informed that I cannot comply with the terms of his memorials.

I take opportunity of adding that I shall be glad to receive in due course a reply to my despatch No. 102 of the 7th April last.

I have, &c.,

RIPON.

No. 46.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G.

Ceylon.—No. 195.

Downing street, June 29, 1894.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to transmit to you for your information, in reply to your despatch No. 174 of the 18th ultimo, the document noted below relative to the proposed annual visit of a British man-of-war to the Maldivé Islands.

I have, &c.,

R. H. MEADE,
for Secretary of State.

Date.	...	Description of Document.
June 28		Copy letter from the Admiralty.

Enclosure in No. 46.

The Secretary, Admiralty Office, to the Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

M 4696.

Admiralty, June 28, 1894.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter of 21st instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will inform the Secretary of State that orders have been given to the Commander in Chief on the East Indies Station to make arrangements for the Maldivé Islands to be visited annually by one of Her Majesty's ships.

I am, &c.,

EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 47.

Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G., to the Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.

Miscellaneous.—No. 238.

Queen's House, Colombo.
Ceylon, July 5, 1894.

MY LORD MARQUESS,—WITH reference to the 3rd paragraph of Your Lordship's despatch No. 164 of the 6th ultimo, desiring to be furnished with a reply to despatch No. 102 of 7th April last, having reference to annual visits to the Maldivé Islands by a British man-of-war, and also to the water supply of the Island, I beg to refer Your Lordship to my despatch No. 174 of the 18th May last, which has apparently crossed the despatch now under acknowledgment.

3. I beg, however, to submit for Your Lordship's information copy of a letter from Mr. G. Browne, the Commissioner who recently visited the Maldivé Islands, and whom I requested to suggest any measures for improving the water supply of the place. Mr. Browne's suggestions are good and practical ones, and I will take the first opportunity that presents itself of offering advice in the sense of those suggestions to the Sultan of the Maldives.

I have, &c.,

A. E. HAVELOCK.

No. 48.

Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G., to the Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.

Miscellaneous.—No. 454.

Queen's House, Colombo,
Ceylon, December 16, 1894.

MY LORD MARQUESS,—WITH reference to Your Lordship's despatches No. 102 of the 7th April last and No. 195 of the 29th June last, relative to an annual visit to the Maldivé Islands by one of Her Majesty's ships of war, I have the honour to report that the Rear-Admiral Commanding on the Station having placed at my disposal H.M.S. Cossack, I requested Commander Fisher of that vessel to visit the Maldivé Islands. I enclose a copy of my letter of instructions to Captain Fisher, a copy of a letter addressed by me to the Sultan, which I asked Captain Fisher to deliver, and a copy of Captain Fisher's report of his visit.

2. The information which Captain Fisher gives of the apparent stability of the present Sultan's Government and of the condition of the Islands and their people is satisfactory. Your Lordship will be gratified to learn that the Sultan has expressed his intention of improving the water supply of Malé, the principal island of the group, in the manner suggested by me in my letter to His Highness, a copy of which forms one of the enclosures of this despatch.

I have, &c.,

A. E. HAVELOCK.

No. 49.

W. T. Taylor, Esq., to the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

Colombo, August 7, 1900.

YOUR EXCELLENCY.—H. M. S. "Pigeon," Lieut.-Commander O. V. Sarge, left Colombo for the Maldives at 10.30 A.M. on the 27th ultimo and arrived at Malé at 2 P.M. on the 30th idem.

At 5 P.M. the same day His Highness the Sultan accorded an interview to the Commander of H. M. S. "Pigeon" and myself. We were accompanied by Mr. Ponsonby, Lieut. Warton, R.N., and Surgeon Smith, R.N. The interview was of a purely formal character, at which the customary compliments were exchanged and inquiries made. In the course of this interview the Sultan promised to receive me the following morning at 10 A.M.

About 10.20 A.M. on the 31st the Sultan received Mr. Ponsonby and myself, there being also present the Cadi (or Kazi) of the Maldives, Mohammed Didi, the Prime Minister, and the interpreters. The Interpreter employed by His Highness was Ahmed Didi, his wife's brother.

I began by explaining to the Sultan that my visit had no official character, that I had merely taken advantage of H. M. S. "Pigeon" proceeding to Malé for the customary annual visit to make personal acquaintance with the country and the people. And being there I took the opportunity to ask His Highness respecting certain matters regarding which I knew Your Excellency would like to have information at first hand.

I first asked about the prosperity of the Islands and the condition of the crops. The Sultan replied that his people are prosperous, and that he is able to look after them and govern them. The produce of the cocoanuts and the fishery, the principal sources of trade, are in a flourishing condition.

He stated that the revenue of the Island is in a satisfactory condition, and is sufficient for the purposes of Government, but no information as to its amount was forthcoming. I may here mention that I was informed subsequently by the Prime Minister that the annual revenue amounts to between two and three lakhs of rupees. The revenue is made up of Customs duty on imports, export duties on certain articles produced in the Island, and a few direct taxes. I gathered from unofficial sources that certain dues are paid by the shipping, which dues go direct to the Sultan and his officers.

Rice is the principal article of importation. Cotton goods and other manufactures are imported, and on these, with a few exceptions, an import duty of one-twelfth is levied.

His Highness assured me that no undue preference is now shown to any trader or importer: all are treated alike. Up to last year this was not so; up to then Carimjee Jafferjee (*vide* Appendix I.) enjoyed certain privileges and exemptions, but these have now been abolished, and in future all will be treated alike.

The two envoys who recently spent some months at Colombo went on business from the Sultan, and, in the case of one of them, to obtain medical treatment. Part of the business in question was in connection with the proposed improvement of Malé harbour.* With respect to this, Messrs. Walker are being consulted. No application for advice or assistance was made to the Ceylon Government, because the Sultan considered he could do all he wanted without help.

The letter of 10th July (*vide* Appendix II.) addressed to Your Excellency by these two gentlemen before their departure from Colombo is in accordance with the views of the Sultan. He contemplates referring the financial disputes of himself and his Government with Carimjee Jafferjee to the court at Malé presided over by the Cadi (or Kazi). He expressed himself as unwilling to accept the suggestion which I made, under instructions from Your Excellency, that the matters in dispute should be referred to arbitration. In whatever way it may be decided that their differences should be settled it is in his opinion essential that the inquiry should take place at Malé. He would not be satisfied with an inquiry or examination of the accounts held at Colombo. No progress had been made with the examination of Carimjee Jafferjee's accounts since July of last year when Ahmed Didi promised the Lieutenant-Governor that he would see to it. The Sultan anticipates that as the result of an investigation it would be found that Carimjee Jafferjee is indebted to the Maldivian Government to the extent of Rs. 60,000. The claims by and against Carimjee Jafferjee are in respect of moneys advanced by Carimjee Jafferjee, moneys paid to Carimjee Jafferjee by the Maldivian Government, and the disposal of goods entrusted to Carimjee Jafferjee by the Maldivian Government.

I urged on His Highness a reference to arbitration, pointing out that a decision by a court sitting at Malé and believed by the general public to be influenced by him could not be regarded as satisfactory and would not be so regarded where the claims of a British subject were in question.

According to His Highness the concessions enjoyed up to last year by Carimjee Jafferjee are (a) exemption from payment of export duty on goods shipped by him, and (b) the admission free of import duty of goods carried in three of his buggalows on payment for each voyage of fixed sums of Rs. 500, Rs. 400, and Rs. 750 respectively. In the case of the import duties exemption, this meant a saving of the difference between Rs. 1,500 or Rs. 2,000 and the several sums actually paid. Other buggalows of Carimjee Jafferjee are also employed in the carrying trade of the Maldives, but in respect of their cargoes the regular import duty was paid. The Sultan could assign no satisfactory reason for these exemptions. He was understood to deny that they were in return for or on account of advances made to him or his Government by Carimjee Jafferjee. The concession in respect of the first buggalow was made by his predecessor, Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din; the concessions in respect of the other two were made by the present Sultan. The concessions made by the present Sultan were made at the instance of his late Prime Minister, Ibrahim Didi (*vide* Appendix III.), and were alleged to be intended to reward Carimjee Jafferjee for his services as Agent in Ceylon of the Maldivian Government. It is not alleged that Carimjee Jafferjee rendered any service as between the Ceylon Government and the Maldivian Government.

* Bell writes of this so-called harbour as follows:—"An unbroken reef just awash, renders its (the Island's) south side inaccessible; but the rest of its circumference has a lagoon or harbour, formed by an artificial bank of coral three to four feet above water and six to eight feet in width, roughly renewed from time to time, which serves as an effective breakwater against the monsoon storms. As the depth of water inside is from six to fourteen feet, this harbour gives excellent shelter to both the trading *gundaras* and fishing boats of the natives. The only entrance, about thirty feet in width, is on the side where the coral bank approaches the beach to within 60 or 70 yards."

At the present day the depth of water varies from two to four feet; it is proposed to dredge it to a depth of eight feet in the southern part and of twelve feet in the northern part.

The Sultan does not know how Carimjee Jafferjee's claim of two lakhs is made up, or what moneys he has expended for the Maldivian Government. The Sultan appeared disposed to deny that Carimjee Jafferjee had addressed to him several letters asking for a settlement, as alleged in Carimjee Jafferjee's letter to the address of Sir E. Noel Walker of the 19th April last; and added that Carimjee Jafferjee took no notice of his requests for a settlement.

Ibrahim Didi was removed from office as Prime Minister for the reasons stated in the Sultan's letter of 19 Safir, 1317 (28th June, 1899), sent to Colombo by the hand of Ahmed Didi (*vide* Appendix IV.). Besides what is stated in that letter it is true that, as stated by Dadabhoy in his memorial to Admiral Douglas, Ibrahim Didi wanted a concession of the Customs duties to be given to Carimjee Jafferjee in return for an annual payment of Rs. 80,000.

The cause of objection by the Sultan to the employment of Abdul Karim Mudaliyar as Interpreter was alleged to be that the latter on the occasion of his visits to Malé told the people that the Sultan will not be allowed to act in opposition to Carimjee Jafferjee; that the Ceylon Government would not permit it; and that as a consequence of these statements disturbances might follow. I pointed out to His Highness that of this nothing was known to the Ceylon Government and that so far as interpretation went there appeared to be no reason to find fault with Abdul Karim Mudaliyar, that the notes of conversations interpreted by him, as written down by the Lieutenant-Governor, agreed practically in all essential respects with the notes of what passed submitted subsequently by Mohammed Didi and Ahmed Didi respectively. This was not challenged.

The Sultan asserted that no disturbance whatever followed the removal from office of Ibrahim Didi, nor was there any trouble whatever except the trouble raised by Carimjee Jafferjee's people in connection with the payment of Customs duties.

The Sultan is quite satisfied with his present Prime Minister and with the way affairs are now proceeding.

The Sultan alleged that he knows nothing of any present of Rs. 5,000 having been made to Sir Edward Walker on the occasion of his visit to Malé in 1898. His Highness sent him a present of some mats and other small things, nothing more. If a present of Rs. 5,000 was made, it was made by his Minister without his knowledge. He has not heard that it was reported, and at one time believed at Malé, that the amount shown in his accounts by Ibrahim Didi as having been given was Rs. 50,000. His Highness knows nothing whatever of gratifications being given to officials of the Ceylon Government on the occasion of the annual embassy. If such are given they must be of small amount, Rs. 50 or Rs. 100. I explained that I mentioned these matters to His Highness in a purely friendly spirit with a view to bring to his notice rumours that were current. I mentioned also that presents to officials were regarded with disfavour by the Ceylon Government, and were quite wasted, as His Highness might rely on the friendly disposition towards him of the Ceylon Government without his having recourse to attempts at influence of this character.

His Highness said that that Dadabhoy is not now in the Sultan's employment in any way. Last year it had been intimated to the Ceylon Government by the Prime Minister, Mohammed Didi, that Dadabhoy had been engaged as his Private Secretary. I here explained to the Sultan that credit was not given to Mohammed Didi's intimation because the Ceylon Government was sure His Highness would recognize that he should not engage the services of a British subject, resident in Ceylon, without first communicating with the Ceylon Government. The Sultan had not communicated with or asked the consent of the Ceylon Government. Dadabhoy, I told His Highness, was deported from the Maldives by Capt. Field because it was feared he might foment disturbance and because he was complicating matters by interference in Maldivian politics, which as a British subject he had no right to do.

I again at this stage, believing that the interview was about to close, commended to the Sultan's careful consideration with his Ministers the suggestion as to arbitration as between Carimjee Jafferjee and himself. I said the suggestion was Your Excellency's, and was prompted by a desire to serve the interests of His Highness and his Government.

The Sultan then went on to say that he proposed starting for Mecca in about six weeks from now, and inquired whether the Ceylon Government would object to his proposals for a Regency. I said in reply that he no doubt would submit only suitable proposals, and if suitable proposals were submitted, or suitable arrangements were made by him, no objection would be likely to be taken.

He said that he and his Ministers were apprehensive of disturbance being stirred up by Ibrahim Didi, inquired if Ibrahim Didi is recognized as a British subject and appeared desirous of ascertaining how far Ibrahim Didi would be supported by the Ceylon Government. I told His Highness it is not likely the Ceylon Government would interfere with his arrangements, or would support Ibrahim Didi if the latter were to put himself in active opposition to the Government, but that Ibrahim Didi's safety must continue to be a matter of concern to the Government of Ceylon by whom the Sultan would be held responsible for anything that might happen to him.

With this our interview closed, having lasted over three hours.

About 4.30 P.M. the same evening the Sultan visited H. M. S. "Pigeon" and was shown over the ship by Lieutenant-Commander de Satge. The Sultan impressed me and the others, who were brought in contact with him, as being physically robust and mentally as possessed of keen intelligence. No symptoms of weakness or failure such as are described by Capt. Field were apparent.

The following morning at 10 A.M. I paid a visit to Ibrahim Didi, the late Prime Minister, at his residence, he having privately intimated to me that he was not permitted to receive me.

I found him to be, as described by Capt. Field, a man of about 70, very keen, intelligent, and, I would say, dissatisfied with his present state. The apprehension of the Sultan and his present advisers that, after the former's departure, disturbance might be fomented by Ibrahim Didi is, in my opinion, formed as the result of my interview with Ibrahim Didi, by no means groundless. Besides his undoubted ability and influence, he is, I think, of a restless disposition and, granted opportunity, would hardly, even if he so desired, be able to resist a try for a restoration to power. While he was in power, I should say the Sultan was a mere figure head, the whole work of administration being centred in Ibrahim Didi; and I am inclined to believe the assertion that the cause of his downfall is the Sultan's unwillingness to continue the relations that existed up to last year. Ibrahim Didi thought he could exact his own terms and found out too late that he was mistaken.

I am also disposed to think, though I hardly have grounds for saying so, that family matters, possibly family quarrels, were mixed up with the proceedings of last year which led to Ibrahim

Didi's removal from office. An active personage, probably a strong influence at present, is the brother-in-law of the Sultan, to whom Capt. Field alludes in his report, and who came in July of last year on a special mission to Sir E. Walker, and again in December last with the annual tribute to Your Excellency. This brother-in-law, Ahmed Didi, had three sisters, one of whom was married to Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din, whom the present Sultan succeeded after a very short interval, a second is married to the present Sultan, and the other married Ibrahim Didi. Ahmed Didi is comparatively young, active, extremely intelligent, I would say very ambitious, and I fancy contemplates succeeding Mohammed Didi as Chief Minister before long with a possibility of ultimately succeeding to the Sultanate.

At my interview with Ibrahim Didi, after the customary exchange of greetings and compliments, I made inquiry as to the concessions granted to Carimjee Jafferjee. Ibrahim Didi asserted that the concessions had not been made at his instance, but by Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din and the present Sultan in return for favours received, advances made, and such like. The concessions were as mentioned at my interview with the Sultan except that according to Ibrahim Didi the payment to be made in respect of the exemption of the third buggalow was £35 sterling, not Rs. 750. No settlement had been made with Carimjee Jafferjee since 1893 when the amount due to him was Rs. 110,000; it must now be more.

Ibrahim Didi denied that he wanted the Sultan to give a concession of the Customs duties to Carimjee Jafferjee for an annual payment of Rs. 80,000.

He stated that the present of Rs. 5,000 to Sir E. Walker was under direct instructions from the Sultan. An account of all such disbursements is filed in the Kachcheri.

He admitted that after his removal from office last year no disturbance took place. He had been apprehensive of disturbance, but none occurred. He is still apprehensive that harm may come to him from the present administration; he has been threatened and has been told that he may not go on board any vessel of war to pay visits and so on.

He said that it is the usual practice on the occasion of the annual embassy to Ceylon to make a present of Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 to the Maha Mudaliyar in recognition of the services rendered by him to the embassy, and denied the giving of presents to the other officers. If the Tamil Interpreter said he received an annual present of the value of Rs. 600, it would not be true. He would receive a present of a few mats—nothing more. Ibrahim Didi denied that presents of large amount were made to certain Ceylon officials on the occasion of the recognition of the present Sultan.

Before leaving I cautioned Ibrahim Didi against improper interference with the existing administration, in respect of which, if he should adopt such a course, he would receive no support from the Government of Ceylon.

I then went on to the residence of Mohammed Didi, where I had an interview with him, Ahmed Didi, and some others of the Ministers. Mohammed Didi introduced the subject of the dispute with Carimjee Jafferjee and of the arbitration suggested. I made clear to him our object in suggesting arbitration, and finished up by saying that having made the suggestion in the interests of the Maldivian Government we did not care whether or not the suggestion was adopted. If the case were to be tried by the Cadi, and Carimjee Jafferjee admitted the jurisdiction and accepted the decision of the court, well and good, there is nothing more to be said. But if Carimjee Jafferjee objects and appeals to the British Government, undoubtedly the procedure would not be regarded as satisfactory and might lead to interference. The impression created in my mind by what passed at this interview is that the Sultan, having considered with his advisers what I had said on the subject on the previous day is prepared to submit his claims and those of Carimjee Jafferjee to arbitration, or it may be that his advisers are prepared for arbitration while he is for the moment unwilling to admit a change of policy. But they would like the investigation to be at Malé.

I next went with Mohammed Didi to the Kachcheri, where I was shown particulars, kept in Maldivian, of transactions with Carimjee Jafferjee. From this I gathered that in 1893 the indebtedness of the Maldivian Government to Carimjee Jafferjee was Rs. 112,815; Ibrahim Didi had told us about Rs. 110,000. Payments contra were shown to the extent of Rs. 30,000 + Rs. 15,492 = Rs. 45,492; and it was alleged that Carimjee Jafferjee had failed to furnish an account of wrecked goods entrusted to him for disposal, of the estimated value of two lakhs, though the account had been called for both orally and in writing. Carimjee Jafferjee was also said to owe freight on rice shipped by him on a vessel, the property of the Maldivian Government, on various occasions during the past six years from Calcutta, and the rent of a house or store at Malé occupied by him. It is not known whether in his account with the Maldivian Government he claims expenses on account of the envoys to Ceylon, who up to last year were entertained by him: if he does, other sums will have to be added on the Maldivian side.

There was an evident unwillingness to show me more of their accounts, or to let me see any account of expenditure by the envoys in Ceylon. With respect to moneys paid by Ibrahim Didi they alleged they had not received his accounts.

The accounts are not, it would seem, balanced annually or periodically, and no account is made up of the volume of imports and exports. It was said this might be done without difficulty, but I think it very unlikely that any such action will be taken by any purely Maldivian administration.

It was stated that the revenue of a year would be between two and three lakhs of rupees, made up of Customs import duties, export duties, and direct taxes, particulars of which are given in Appendix V. The people were described as well to do and as having increased in prosperity during the past ten years.

I accompanied Mohammed Didi and Ahmed Didi to the stores where rice and other goods taken in kind in payment of customs duty are stored. It would undoubtedly be a convenience and a gain both to the Maldivian Government and to importers if a reasonable tariff were to be drawn up. The Government would receive a large proportion of its revenue in cash, and would be able to pay its servants in cash in place of with bags of rice as now—the Customs Officer gets a monthly payment of two bags of rice, and so with others—while merchants would not lose the profit on one-twelfth of the goods imported by them.

From the Government Store we proceeded to the bazaar where the importers and others have their places of business.

The bazaar has all the appearance of being the seat of a flourishing trade, business being almost entirely in the hands of strangers; most of these strangers are Gujaratis, but among them are

some 40 Moormen from Galle. By far the largest amount of trade seemed to be in the hands of Carimjee Jafferjee. As the traders of Malé are strangers and the regulations of Maldivian Government require all imports and exports to pass through Malé it follows that the whole of the trade, practically, is monopolized by these strangers. Some of the stores of these traders are substantial buildings of considerable extent, but many of them are of a flimsy character: in almost every instance the stores, including those of the Government, have roofs of corrugated galvanized iron, and, as these stores are the buildings most in evidence from the anchorage, the first view of Malé is not unlike that of a mining town, the buildings in which had been just run up.

Adjoining the bazaar on the west or inner side of the island is the harbour where boats and lighters discharge. This harbour, which is about 150 yards wide, affords mooring space and perfect security for a large number of boats drawing from 2 to 4 feet. Schooners and buggalows drawing more than this are anchored outside the harbour under the lee of other islands of the Atoll, their cargoes transferred to lighters and in them carried to and discharged in the harbour. The scheme for the improvement of the harbour contemplates the dredging of one portion of the harbour to a depth of 8 feet and of another to a depth of 12 feet, as already mentioned. The material taken out from the harbour will be used to form an embankment on the shore, and on this it is proposed to erect boutiques.

Away from the bazaar, Malé is clean and is singularly free from smells. The roads are wide and level and, in dry weather at all events, are firm and good owing to the excellence of the natural formation. No attempt at road construction has been made. The houses are for the most part enclosed in compounds surrounded by cadjan fences after the fashion to be seen at Jaffna. Several houses built of stone, some of them with tiled roofs, are now in existence. Water of good quality for drinking purposes is obtained from wells sunk in different places, but the water used for bathing purposes is very foul. The bathing places themselves are large and well constructed of cut stone. An objectionable feature is the presence of several burial places scattered through the town, the surface of these burial grounds being for the most part higher than the adjoining roads and land, the result of the numerous burials that have taken place for many years past.

No definite information was forthcoming as to the population. It was stated, however, that the population of Malé is about 5,000. Mr. Bell puts it as in 1879 from 2,000 to 3,000, and that in the whole archipelago some 30,000 persons between the ages of 15 and 60 are registered for taxation purposes, that is 15,000 couples. To each of these 15,000 couples may be assigned a family of two to three children, according to my informants. If however, guided by the experience of the Ceylon Census of 1891, we assume 2 persons of under 15 and over 60 for each family, we get an aggregate population of 60,000.

I do not think I need dwell further on the subject of the general condition and features of these Islands. They have been exhaustively treated by Mr. Bell in the paper compiled by him and published as Sessional Paper No. 43 of 1881. What was true of the Maldives then and of their inhabitants is true of them now, indeed it is quite remarkable how closely in many respects the description given by Pyzard Delaval, as the result of his enforced sojourn of five years from 1602 to 1607, fits the present time.

The staple products are cocoanuts, fish, tortoise-shell, and ambergris; coir of excellent quality is manufactured for purposes of export: the well-known Maldivian mats are made in Suvadivu, the most southerly of the Atolls; and cotton cloths are woven and dyed chiefly, though not entirely, in Malosmudu Atoll. Minor articles of manufacture are lacquer work and waist knives, in the making of which the Maldivians display both taste and skill.

In the matter of production and trade considerable development appears to have taken place since Mr. Bell reported. The trade is almost wholly with British India and Ceylon. With respect to the trade with Ceylon, marked progress has been made in the past 20 years. For 1881 Mr. Bell quotes the value of imports into Ceylon from the Maldives as £37,150, equal at 2s. to the rupee to Rs. 371,500. The Customs Returns for 1899 show a total value of imports into Ceylon of Rs. 1,948,323, an increase of over 400 per cent. The value of exports to the Maldives from Ceylon is quoted by Mr. Bell as being in 1881, £35,293, equal at 2s. to the rupee to Rs. 352,930. The Customs Returns for last year show the exports, including reshipments, as valued at Rs. 830,971. The balance of trade is much in favour, it will be seen, of the Maldives. And most of what goes from Ceylon to the Maldives is the produce of countries other than Ceylon, *e.g.*, rice, kerosine oil, &c.

The following table shows the value of the chief articles imported into Ceylon from the Maldives in 1899:—

	Value.
Fish	Rs. 1,862,427
Coir	14,308
Tortoise shell	24,943
Fish manure	2,184

Cocoanuts and coir from the Maldives go mostly to India.

The principal articles sent from Ceylon to the Maldives in 1899 were:—

	Value.
Curry stuffs	Rs. 8,978
Fruits	2,413
Rice	636,024
Other grain	1,204
Provisions	5,274
Ghee	2,446
Aerated waters	1,107
Sugar	50,824
Cotton manufactures	29,237
Arecanuts	41,296
Tobacco	2,460
Earthenware	2,975
Kerosene oil	18,090
Cocconut oil	3,674

The more important of these articles with the exception of arecanuts are reshipments from Ceylon—the total value of reshipments last year to the Maldives from Ceylon amounted to Rs. 738,325, while the direct shipments were valued at but Rs. 92,646.

The trade with British India is nowadays limited almost exclusively to the Port of Calcutta. The latest figures available are for the twelve months ended March 31, 1899, and show imports from the Maldives to the value of Rs. 59,880, and exports Rs. 136,880. This is a marked falling off as compared with 1881, the last year for which figures are given by Mr. Bell, when the imports were shown as Rs. 242,760 and exports Rs. 389,970, and goes to show that trade with the Maldives, such as it is, is being diverted from India to Ceylon, where most of the traders connected with the Maldives have now established themselves.

The Maldivians are possessed of a large number of very fine boats and some small sailing vessels. Most, however, of the trade with India and Ceylon is by means of British registered vessels: out of a total of 92 vessels of 11,295 tons entered from the Maldives at ports in Ceylon in 1899, only 22 with a tonnage of 1,420 tons were Maldivian, and of 80 vessels with a tonnage of 7,345 tons cleared in the same period only 20 with a tonnage of 1,217 tons were Maldivian.

W. T. TAYLOR.

APPENDIX I.

Carimjee Jafferjee is the head of a firm of Bombay merchants having its headquarters at Colombo, and branches at Malé and elsewhere.

The firm in question began its business connection with the Maldives upwards of 50 years ago. It has now a large establishment at Malé and for many years past has dealt with a very large share of the trade, both import and export, of the Maldives, its transactions being much larger than those of any other firm.

Occupying this commanding position in connection with the trade of the archipelago, the firm has naturally been brought into close relations with the Maldivian Government. From 1893 up to last year Carimjee Jafferjee was the recognized Agent in Ceylon of the Maldivian Government. He entertained the officers of the Maldivian Government who came on the annual embassy to the Governor of Ceylon, and at other times extended hospitality to any Maldivian notable who came to Colombo. His firm acted for the Maldivian Government in their various transactions, most of them being of a commercial character; the firm also carried through all business connected with the Maldivian ships which came to ports of Ceylon. The firm appears to have made purchases and disposed of cargoes in India for the Sultan of the Maldives and his Government.

During this period it is alleged by Carimjee Jafferjee that his firm made advances to or on behalf of the Sultan and his Government, the balance due to the firm being alleged to be upwards of two lakhs of rupees. In return apparently for this accommodation various concessions, mostly of a Customs nature, were made by the Sultan to the firm, concessions which gave the firm a great advantage over their rivals in the trade of the Island. The withdrawal of these concessions last year, at the instance it would seem of a rival firm, has led to the claims and counter-claims now being pressed.

The rival firm in question trades under the name of Jeevunjee Noorbhai and Co. This firm has had business relations with the Maldives for some ten years past and is a formidable competitor for the leading position in the trade and for the favour of the Maldivian Government.

APPENDIX II.

Before leaving, however, we deem it our duty to communicate to Your Excellency the unpleasant duty which is being thrust on our Government by Messrs. Carimjee Jafferjee and Mohamedbhai Allibhai. Both merchants, residing at Colombo and trading in partnership at the Maldives. The gentlemen owe our Government large sums of money, for payment of which we have requested them several times, and failing compliance have served on them notices both here and at Malé. But they have disregarded them all, and in despair our Government, much against their will, see no other way open but to proceed against them according to the laws and customs of our country, the enforcement of which has been unduly delayed solely out of consideration for the great respect we have for the British Government whose subjects these people are. But having exhausted all gentle means, Your Excellency will hold us blameless, and we trouble Your Excellency with this intimation in order to prevent our constitutional act giving Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee a handle to misrepresent us again to the Ceylon Government as hostile and unjust to British subjects.

We also avail ourselves of this opportunity to bring to Your Excellency's notice our Sultan's fears of the possibility of harm to Maldivian interests by the employment of Mr. Abdul Carim, Mudaliyar, as Your Excellency's Interpreter in Maldivian matters. This gentleman has ere this given our Government much cause for heart-burning by open hostility and disrespect for the Sultan and his Ministers arising naturally from his friendship for Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee and Ibrahim Didi, our ex-Prime Minister, to subserve both whose interests Mr. Abdul Carim is suspected by us of resorting to wilful misinterpretation calculated to bring us into disfavour with Your Excellency. We beg, therefore, in the Sultan's name, that in future Your Excellency may be pleased to discontinue sending Mr. Abdul Carim, Mudaliyar, to the Maldives in the capacity of Interpreter, as thereby much mischief will be prevented. Last year some of our colleagues, who arrived here during Your Excellency's absence from the Colony, had telegraphic correspondence on this same subject with His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, copy of which we beg to annex for Your Excellency's perusal.

APPENDIX III.

Ibrahim Didi holds the position of Dorhimene Kaligefan and was until last year the most powerful of the Sultan's ministers and was generally recognized as the Chief or Prime Minister.

His father was one Ali Didi, who held the same office under Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din the father and immediate predecessor of Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din and grandfather of the present Sultan.

While Muhammad Imad-ud-din was still Sultan, Ali Didi came with his family to Ceylon and settled at Galle, the cause of his removal from the Maldives being said to be dissatisfaction at the manner in which Maldivian affairs were being conducted.

Ibrahim Didi was while he resided at Galle the Turkish Consul at that port, and as such was known to the Ceylon Government.

On the death of Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din and the accession of his second son Ibrahim Nur-ud-din to power, Ibrahim Didi returned (about 1879) to Malé, married a sister of Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din and became one of the Sultan's Ministers with the rank or office of Dorhimene Kaligefan, formerly held by his father.

About 1887 an attempt was made by the then Maldivian Administration to grant a monopoly of trade to Carimjee Jafferjee. This was dropped on its appearing that the adoption of such a course would not meet with the approval of the Ceylon Government.

About this time Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din abdicated, and was succeeded by his nephew Muhammad Muin-ud-din.

Within a few months there was a rupture between Sultan Muhammad Muin-ud-din and Ibrahim Didi, and the latter resigned office. Then followed a series of incendiaryisms with which it was suspected, wrongly or rightly, that Ibrahim Didi was concerned. The Sultan took stringent measures to suppress the disorder, which ended in the exile of Ibrahim Didi and others.

The then Governor of Ceylon, Sir A. Gordon, interceded for Ibrahim Didi and expressed an opinion that Ibrahim Didi, in view of his previous service, deserved to be leniently dealt with. On this Ibrahim Didi was allowed to return to Malé and his friends to others of the Maldive Islands.

Soon after a further change took place: Sultan Muhammad Muin-ud-din abdicated, Ibrahim Nur-ud-din resumed power as Sultan, and Ibrahim Didi became his Chief or Prime Minister. This was about 1889.

About the end of 1892 Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din died and was succeeded by a younger son on the nomination, it was said, of the deceased Sultan. While recognition of this younger son was pending a disturbance took place which ended in an elder son being made Sultan with the present Sultan as Regent.

This was a condition of affairs inimical to the interests of Ibrahim Didi, the new Sultan being a nephew of Ibrahim Didi's personal rival, Mohammed Didi, then in exile. After a short interval a further change occurred: the boy Sultan was deposed and was succeeded by the Regent, his cousin, as Sultan. Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din has since ruled with, up to last year, Ibrahim Didi as his chief adviser.

APPENDIX IV.

Extract from Letter of 19 Safir, 1317.

WE beg to inform Your Excellency that Your Excellency's letter dated June 18, was delivered to us by the Captain of H. M. S. "Marathon," and that we have read and noted its contents. From that letter it appears that Your Excellency wishes that Haji Ibrahim Didi should continue in the office of Prime Minister and that Your Excellency is of opinion that he should not be displaced from that office without our first being satisfied as to the reason for such displacement. We would say that in this opinion of Your Excellency we concur. Ibrahim Didi, however, would not work harmoniously with ourselves, or with any one of the other chiefs of our State, unless he is allowed to have his own way in respect of the administration of all departments of our Government. Further we thought of removing him from office only after he had repeatedly told us that he could not perform the duties thereof. He had also said openly and plainly in our Council that in regard to the administration of the affairs of the State he was outside the pale, and that as regards the management of funds and other business he could not do things in the manner they were being done by those now employed. Further he wished that all foreign merchants should be placed under the control of Carimjee Jafferjee, that these foreign merchants should either pay duty or leave the country, and that Carimjee Jafferjee should have a monopoly of the trade. As these proposals did not commend themselves to any of the other ministers, we did not accede to his wishes. He therefore estranged himself from us and begged that he might be excused from holding office. Then after some time our faithful Minister Mohammed Didi came over and we made him our Prime Minister.

APPENDIX V.

Import Duties.

Exemptions.—Dhall, mun, flour, Muscat, cement, onions, potatoes, mineral waters, biscuits, syrup, books printed in the Arabic language, live stock, gold, silver.

All other goods pay an import duty of one-twelfth, taken in kind, or, when payment in kind is not possible, an equivalent in money.

Export Duties.

	Rs.	c.
Maldive fish (the cwt.)	...	1 0
Cocoanuts (the 1,000)	...	1 0
Cowries (the maund)	...	0 25
Coir, fine, called Mabinne (the maund)	...	0 37½
Coir, coarse, called Rasi (the maund)	...	0 25
Rihakaru (the cwt.)	...	7 0
Tortoise shell (the lb.)	...	0 50
Copra (the 3 maunds)	...	1 0
Salt fish (the cwt.)	...	1 0

Direct Taxes.

Taxes are collected in kind from the inhabitants between the ages of 15 and 60 as follows:—
From every two persons, *i.e.*, from each couple, annually, 28 lb. cowries, 25 Maldive fish, 25 cocoanuts, 1 cadjan.

From some Atolls smaller quantities are taken, and from some no cocoanuts.
The equivalent in money of cocoanuts and cadjans is accepted.

The collection of this revenue is entrusted to ministers and relatives of the Sultan who usually collect by deputy, remaining themselves in Malé. They may, however, be required by the Sultan to reside in the Atolls entrusted to them and make the collections in person. The remuneration for a good Atoll is 200 kottes of cowries; a kotte=28 lb. This is equivalent to about 300 rupees. (Cowries are exported to Calcutta.)

Port Dues.

Certain dues or charges have to be paid by all foreign, that is non-Maldivian ships. As to the nature of these dues some uncertainty appears to exist.

A certain well-known trader who was asked for details of these charges said he was unable to give them, but that they amounted to Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 for each vessel.

The Interpreter, Mr. Buksh, who undertook to ascertain what they are, supplies the following information:—

				Rs.	c.
Anchorage inside the Harbour	...	...	...	40	0
Anchorage outside the Harbour	...	...	...	65	0

Of this latter amount a sum of Rs. 25 goes to a Customs official.

In addition the following charges have to be met:—

- To 8½ houses, presents of the value of Rs. 5 each.
- To the Port Officer Rs. 5 and 4 bags of rice.
- To the Dorhimena Manikfan 8 bags of rice.
- To the Mullahs 4 bags of rice.
- To the Treasurer and the Collector of Customs 4 bags of rice.
- To the Port Surgeon Rs. 5.

No. 50.

Governor the Right Hon. Sir, J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., to the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P.

Miscellaneous.—No. 314.

Queen's House, Colombo,
Ceylon, August 29, 1900.

SIR,—WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of Maldive Islands I have the honour to submit to you copy of a lucid and interesting report* by the Acting Colonial Secretary who recently visited the Maldives on board H.M.S. "Pigeon" which proceeded to Malé on the customary annual visit.

I have, &c.,
WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 51.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P., to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

Ceylon.—No. 332.

Downing street, September 21, 1900.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 314 of August 29, forwarding a copy of Mr. Taylor's interesting report on his recent visit to the Maldives.

I have, &c.,
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 52.

His Highness the Sultan of the Maldive Islands to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

AFTER having made all arrangements and necessary preparations for our visit to Mecca, and even decided as to who should accompany us in our voyage, we summoned the chiefs and the leading men to our presence in order to receive their assurance of loyalty and allegiance and to impress on them the necessity of being faithful to God, to His Prophet, and to those in authority, and to explain to them what the Lord of both worlds had said in regard to obedience to kings. Having drawn up an agreement to that effect we asked those assembled to sign it. Then all the people, with the exception of Haji Ibrahim Didi, his sons, and his two brothers, set their signatures to the document in obedience to our order. We have in consequence of this refusal suffered unendurable grief. We fear that their refusal to sign the paper is due to their intention to create a disturbance in our absence, and we therefore think that for the safety of this Government they must not be allowed to remain here. Were it not that we are averse to taking serious notice of Ibrahim Didi's offences, and that we desire to be at peace with him, and were it not that we do not want to act contrary to the teaching of our Prophet "Be gracious to those on earth, then those in Heaven shall be gracious unto you," we should have ordered that he go back to live at Galle, where he and his father had resided for many years. No one is ignorant of the fact that the rites and customs of the faith of Islam cannot prevail if kings are not faithful to God and to His Prophet. Nor can these two (rites and customs) be maintained if the subjects are not faithful to their kings. The Lord directs in the right path those who seek him.

We beg further to inform Your Excellency that in our heart we bore no ill-will or enmity towards Haji Ibrahim Didi. Ill-feeling has arisen only of late. This is how it originated. Haji Ibrahim Didi sought our permission, about the time we were raised to the throne, to affix the seal of the late Sultan Nur-ud-din to a blank sheet of paper. At that time we were weak, (powerless), and willing even in trifling matters to be led by him. We therefore allowed the seal to be affixed as desired. Some days after this, when we questioned him for what purpose he had had the seal affixed

* See No. 49.

to a blank sheet of paper, he replied that something which would be good for us and useful to us in the future had been written on it. We remained satisfied for the time being. Later on, when we wanted to know what was written on that paper, he answered that the writing had not then been completed. Then, again, for a third time we repeated our question, when he gave us the same answer as he did on the second occasion. For some time since then we did not ask him about the matter. Now, when we were getting ready to go to Mecca, we questioned him as to what he had done with that sheet of paper and what he had written on it; he declared that he knew nothing about it, and even denied that he ever had any talk with us on the subject. We are quite heartbroken on this account. This denial, added to his refusal to sign the agreement above referred to, has upset our mind. We would not trouble your Excellency by expatiating on the misdeeds and treacheries of Ibrahim Didi, by which he has done harm to this Government, the Sultans, and the chiefs. To say in brief, from the death of our grandfather, Sultan Imad-ud-din, Haji Ibrahim Didi has been turning the mill of oppression in which this Government has been almost completely ground. "When will the Lord come to the rescue? His help is near at hand" is his sacred word.

We feel it our duty to inform Your Excellency of this. Ahamed Hakra Manikfan our loyal Minister brings this letter to Your Excellency. We pray that Your Excellency will graciously afford him protection and render him what help he may need, forgiving all his faults.

Dated the 11th day of Rajab, which corresponds to the 5th of November, 1900.

No. 53.

Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., to His Highness Muhammad Imad-ud-din, Sultan of the Maldives.

Queen's House,
Colombo, December 11, 1900.

I AM in receipt of Your Highness's letter of the 11th Rajab, informing me of the refusal of Haji Ibrahim Didi and his relatives to sign an undertaking which Your Highness desired from them as from other people, in view of Your Highness's contemplated journey to Mecca.

I am pleased to learn from this letter that Your Highness is prepared to allow Haji Ibrahim Didi to leave Your Highness's dominions to come to Ceylon.

From representations that have reached me I understand that Haji Ibrahim Didi is not aware of this, and is under the mistaken impression that his departure will not be permitted.

I request that Your Highness will remove from Haji Ibrahim Didi's mind this false impression and allow him to leave Malé for Ceylon in company with the bearer of this letter, there to take up his residence at least for the period of Your Highness's absence from your dominions.

I trust that Your Highness is in the enjoyment of good health, and may be spared to enjoy many years of prosperity and to rule over a loyal and contented people, and I take this opportunity of renewing to Your Highness the assurances of my continued high consideration.

WEST RIDGEWAY,
Governor.

No. 54.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to Haji Ibrahim Didi Effendi.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, December 14, 1900.

SIR,—I AM directed to inform you that your son Abdul Hamid Didi has represented to this Government that you are ill-treated by the orders or with the knowledge of His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives; that you are not allowed to go on board ships visiting the Port of Malé; that you are not allowed to leave your house; that certain of the atolls entrusted to your administration have been taken from you, and that you are generally treated in a manner unsuited to your position and former services. He has stated that you desire to leave Malé to proceed to Galle, but that the Sultan prevents you from doing so, and that it is contemplated by His Highness to banish you from Malé to some other part of his dominions, where your personal safety will perhaps be endangered.

2. In view of these representations His Excellency the Governor has addressed the Sultan on the matter. His Excellency has, however, been informed by the Sultan that you refused to sign an undertaking which was desired from you as from other people in the Maldives in view of the Sultan's contemplated journey to Mecca; that the Sultan has no desire to prevent you from leaving his dominions, and states that you are quite free to leave them in order to take up your residence in this country.

3. Although it is understood that your freedom has not been interfered with, His Highness the Sultan is being written to by the Governor with a request that you be allowed to come to Ceylon, as you desire, in company with Mr. Edward Weinman of this office, by whom you will be handed this letter.

I am, &c.,
W. T. TAYLOR,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 55.

Mr. E. Weinman to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, December 31, 1900.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to submit for the information of Government a report of my recent visit to the Maldivé Islands.

In obedience to your orders I left Colombo by the ss. Ileafeae on the night of the 17th instant, taking with me the letter addressed by His Excellency the Governor to His Highness the Sultan, and

also the letter which you addressed to Haji Ibrahim Didi. The Sultan's Ambassador was also a passenger in this steamer, which was specially chartered to bring the Sultan to Colombo en route to Mecca.

After an uneventful voyage of very nearly three days we arrived at Malé on the morning of the 20th instant. The Sultan's Ambassador disembarked immediately, and I requested him to be good enough to inform His Highness that I had a letter from His Excellency the Governor, which I was to deliver personally to him and that I desired to know when it was most convenient for His Highness to receive me. A couple of hours later I received a letter from the Sultan's Ambassador saying the Sultan would be pleased to see me at 1 o'clock. Accordingly, at the hour appointed I went to the Sultan's palace, and was introduced to His Highness, with whom were some of his Ministers, by the Ambassador. The Sultan shook hands with me and beckoned me to sit down. I then handed to him His Excellency's letter. His Highness did not open the letter, but gave it to one of his Ministers close by. The Sultan then inquired of me, through an interpreter, whether the Governor was in good health. I replied that I believed His Excellency was in good health when I left Colombo, and I thanked His Highness for the kind inquiry. His Highness said he was very pleased to see me and asked me a few questions about the voyage and I answered them. His Highness then told me he would read His Excellency's letter and communicate with me the next day. I thereupon took leave from His Highness and proceeded to the residence of Haji Ibrahim Didi, to whom I handed your letter. He read it and began the conversation by saying that it was very kind of the Government to send me all this way to accompany him to Ceylon, but that he fears he would not be able to return with me, as he has had not sufficient notice to settle all his matters before leaving Malé. What he actually wants, he said, is a general permission to leave Malé whenever he chose. But I promptly pointed out to him that that was not what his son had represented to Government. "Your son," I said, "had made the Government understand that you are anxious to return to Galle, but that the Sultan would not let you do so. Is that so?" He gave me an evasive reply to the effect that the Sultan was interfering with his freedom. I told him that the Sultan himself desires him to leave Malé, and I asked him what reason he had to think that His Highness would not permit him to go. He replied, "Because His Highness has issued an order that I should not be allowed to visit ships in the harbour of Malé." I ventured to say that even if that was so I did not think it meant that His Highness forbade him leaving Malé for Ceylon. "Yes," he replied, "but how am I to arrange for leaving this place when I am forbidden communication with masters of vessels coming here?" I asked him then if he had ever intimated to the Sultan his desire to return to Ceylon. He said "No." I said then, "What your son has represented to Government, that you want to return to Ceylon, but that the Sultan would not let you do so, is strictly speaking, not correct." He gave me no reply to this, but went on complaining of the treatment he is receiving at the hands of the Sultan and his Ministers and criticizing the mode of levying customs duties at Malé. I cut him short by saying that there was no use his telling me these things now. My mission to Malé was chiefly with the object of accompanying him to Ceylon, I said, and that if he would now consent to come I would arrange for his departure. "I wish to come," he said, "but the Sultan has already caused the people in the place to be informed that you have come on his orders to take me away, and that I am to be handcuffed and taken as a prisoner to the steamer." I said there was going to be nothing of the kind, and I assured him that I would personally see him leave Malé in a dignified way. I told him that if he did not come this time, it would be very unlikely that the Government would again send somebody to accompany him to Ceylon, and that it would be well for him to avail himself of the present opportunity. After a pause, he said, "I will let you know to-morrow whether I will go with you." I then left his house and returned to the steamer.

The next morning (Friday) the Sultan's Ambassador came on board to see me and told me that the Prime Minister wished to speak to me. I accordingly went ashore, but could not meet the Prime Minister, who had been summoned to the palace by the Sultan. I therefore returned to the steamer and early the next morning went ashore again. I met the Prime Minister at his residence, and he told me that the Sultan desired him to inform me that he had not the slightest objection to Ibrahim Didi's leaving Malé in my company, but that, on the contrary, he would be glad to see him go, and that he has caused Ibrahim Didi to be so informed. I thanked him and made straight for Ibrahim Didi's house. I told Ibrahim Didi what the Prime Minister had told me, and urged upon him the desirability of returning to Ceylon with me. He consented at last, and expressed a desire to take his son and a servant along with him. I saw that now was my chance, and I determined not to let it slip off, so I told him that I would arrange with the Maldivian Government, who had chartered the whole vessel for the passage of his son and servant also. He appeared satisfied, and I asked him to come on board the next morning (Sunday) at 9 o'clock, as the steamer was expected to leave a little later on. He promised, and I left him and returned to the residence of the Prime Minister to arrange for the passages of Ibrahim Didi, his son, and servant. The Prime Minister agreed to take them all. This settled, I returned to the steamer. True to his word, Ibrahim Didi with his son and his servant came on board the next morning, and I felt that the object of my mission was now well-nigh accomplished. A little later the Sultan with the Sultana and his suite also came amidst the firing of guns from the port and the buggalows in the harbour. We steamed off at about 2 o'clock on Sunday afternoon, not for Colombo, but for some islands which His Highness desired to visit, nearly 200 miles from Malé. The course was full of reefs, and we once very nearly stranded. As night approached we anchored at sea, as it was considered very dangerous to steam in the dark. Monday morning we began our voyage again. The sea was very choppy, and in a very short while the Sultan was *hors de combat*, so was the Sultana, who begged to return to Malé. Indeed, they were very sick the whole day.

On Tuesday we reached Heavandupollo Atoll. An atoll is a group of islands, and this atoll has more than a dozen islands, all more or less well planted with cocconut. Here we were besieged by a regular fleet of one-masted sailing vessels. The Sultan landed at one of these islands, and after performing some religious rites there, returned to the steamer. The heat here was simply oppressive, and the sea full of sharks. On Wednesday morning the 26th instant, we steamed off for Colombo. We experienced strong adverse winds and heavy seas, and consequently we came on at a very slow rate, arriving at Colombo early on Sunday morning, the 30th instant.

Before disembarking the Sultan desired me to induce Ibrahim Didi to go ashore with me, as he did not wish him to remain in the steamer at the time of his landing. I accordingly told Ibrahim Didi that it was His Highness's wish that he should go ashore with me, and that it would be well for

him to comply with His Highness's wish. He consented, and we left the ship together. I must also mention that as I was about leaving, the Sultan requested me to present his compliments to His Excellency the Governor and to convey to His Excellency his pleasure at being able to visit the beautiful country which His Excellency governs. I told His Highness that it will give me much pleasure to convey this message.

Now, before I close this report, I should wish to say that it was a pleasant surprise to me to have seen Ibrahim Didi and his son fraternize on boardship with the Sultan and his suite. They chatted and laughed as if there never were any differences between them. One can hardly understand these people, and when I expressed to Ibrahim Didi my delight to see them all so agreeable, he said to me, "Oh yes, that is the way. We meet and speak to one another in a very friendly way, but behind me they do all in their power to humiliate me and lower my status." It is well known that Ibrahim Didi was till very lately Prime Minister, and only lost his office about two years ago. But from all I have seen, he yet commands a deal of influence among the people. When he embarked on board a large number of people came to the ship, bowed down to him, and held his feet.

In conclusion, I will show how the Sultan, his Ministers, and Ibrahim Didi are related to one another.

The Sultan first married a daughter of the late Sultan. Then he married a sister of Ibrahim Didi, and thereby became his brother-in-law. This woman was divorced, and His Highness has now taken the present Ambassador's sister for a wife. His Highness is therefore brother-in-law to the Ambassador too. In all, the Sultan appears to have married thrice, but Ibrahim Didi eclipses him. He appears to have had more than four wives. He first married a sister of one of the present Ministers named Hassen Didi, who in turn married one of his sisters. Both are therefore brothers-in-law. Then Ibrahim Didi married again a sister of the present Ambassador, another sister of whom, as I have just stated above, married the present Sultan. Here, again, Ibrahim Didi and the Sultan have become brothers-in-law. Subsequently Ibrahim Didi married an aunt of the Sultan, and I understand he is now living with this lady. He appears also to have married a Circassian woman, whom he has now put away, and, poor thing, she came on board at Malé to return to Ceylon, and was accommodated in one of the second class cabins, which in this steamer are nothing better than a dungeon.

Then, again, two daughters of Ibrahim Didi are married to sons of one of the present Ministers named Hassen Didi, who has accompanied the Sultan on his present trip.

It will be seen from the above that these people are very closely connected with each other, and it is therefore difficult to believe that Ibrahim Didi's life was ever endangered, though I have no doubt that he was being dealt with rather firmly, and for his own sake I think he has done well in returning, and will do better if he does not go back again, as I understand from the Sultan's Ministers that His Highness does not want him there.

I have now stated as fully as possible all my doings while at Malé, and if there is anything which the Government considers I should not have done or said, I beg that I may be pardoned, as I was only actuated with one desire, and that, the efficient performance of the duty imposed on me.

I am, &c.,

EDWARD WEINMAN.

No. 56.

Muhammad Sams-ud-din to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Translation.

THE undersigned memorialist, with great deference, brings to the knowledge and consideration of His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon:—The gentleman called Muhammad Imad-ud-din is the person appointed by the inhabitants (of the Maldives) to be the head of the Council and to administer the Government until the rightful heir to the Maldivian throne attained majority. This gentleman having aspired to the throne won over some people to his side, and by artful means had his name declared as Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din. Subsequently, when the rightful heir to the throne arrived at majority, he (Muhammad Imad-ud-din) made an attempt to get a relinquishment in writing of his (the heir's) inalienable right in such terms as would preclude his future assertion of it. Having done this he (Muhammad Imad-ud-din) had himself proclaimed the Sultan of the Maldives, with all pomp and ceremonies according to the Maldivian custom, thus securing for his descendants the claim to the throne. This is a thing which according to the laws and customs of the Maldives, as well as the tenets of the religion of the land, cannot be, and is unjust: because his father had no right to the throne, and his children can have none thereto according to the laws and customs of the Maldives.

2. The memorialist is the eldest son of Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din Iskandar, who ruled over the Maldives for many years not swerving from the path of justice. According to the laws and customs and the tenets of the religion of the Maldives, on the death of the said Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din Iskandar the sceptre should have descended to his eldest son if he was not mad, blind, or otherwise disqualified by the tenets of the religion and the laws of the land.

3. Being aware of the fact that the Ceylon Government, which wields suzerainty over the Maldivian Government, did not interfere in what Muhammad Imad-ud-din was doing, many things which ought not to have been done are now being done. The memorialist, however, would not here enter into details. He (Muhammad Imad-ud-din) sent some Ministers to the memorialist two months ago to get his signature to a writing. The undersigned did not sign the writing in compliance with the wish of the inhabitants whom he had informed of all these facts.

4. Afterwards acting on the advice of some Ministers Muhammad Imad-ud-din by threats forcibly obtained the signature of the paid servants of the Maldivian Government. That writing is to the effect that Muhammad Imad-ud-din is the Sultan of those who sign it and that they swear by the name of Allah that they will not do anything against him. The intentions of the Ceylon Government not being known to him, the rightful heir to the throne would not sign it to the prejudice of his absolute right.

The memorialist most humbly begs that the Governor of Ceylon, who is the worthy representative of His Most Gracious Majesty the King of England and Emperor of India, will cause a full

inquiry to be made into the aforesaid facts, and if it seems just in the eyes of His Excellency to have the rightful heir to the throne, Muhammad Sams-ud-din, son of Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din Iskandar, who is now of age and is possessed of the requisite qualifications and skill, raised to the throne and thus enable him to secure the right of succession also to his posterity.

May God bless His Excellency and the just British Government.

Dated 7th of Chaval, A.H. 1318.

MUHAMMAD SAMS-UD-DIN,
(son of Ibrahim Nur-ud-din).

No. 57.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to Muhammad Sams-ud-din.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, March 28, 1901.

SIR.—IN reply to your letter dated the 7th day of Chaval A.H., 1318, submitting your claims to the throne of the Maldives, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief to inform you that your case was decided, and in His Excellency's opinion rightfully decided, by his predecessor after careful consideration, and cannot be re-opened.

A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 58.

Governor the Right Hon Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.,
to the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain M.P.

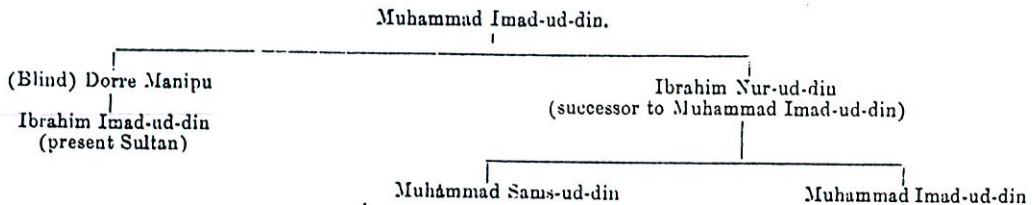
Miscellaneous.—No. 122.

Queen's Cottage, Nuwara Eliya,
Ceylon, April 20, 1901.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to address you on the subject of the succession to the Sultanate of the Maldives.

2. I enclose a letter addressed to me by Muhammad Sams-ud-din, in which he claims, as eldest son of the late Sultan of the Maldives, Ibrahim Nur-ud-din, to be the rightful heir to the throne, and asks for a restitution of his rights.

3. In order clearly to show the connection of this claimant with the ruling Sultan, I append below a table showing the family of Muhammad Imad-ud-din, the immediate predecessor of Ibrahim Nur-ud-din, the late Sultan :—



4. Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din died about 1883, and, as his elder son Dorre Manipu was incapacitated owing to his blindness, he was succeeded as Sultan by his second son Ibrahim Nur-ud-din.

5. Ibrahim Nur-ud-din died in 1893. By the influence of the Minister, Ibrahim Didi, it is said, the second son (Muhammad Imad-ud-din) of Ibrahim Nur-ud-din succeeded, it being alleged that the deceased Sultan had nominated him for the succession.

6. When this was reported to the Ceylon Government, inquiry was made of the Maldivian Government as to whether this succession was according to law and custom and in accordance with the wishes of the people.

7. The Maldivians interpreted this to imply disapproval by the Ceylon Government of what had taken place, and thereupon the younger son (Muhammad Imad-ud-din) was replaced by the elder son (Muhammad Sams-ud-din) of the deceased Ibrahim Nur-ud-din. The present Sultan, Ibrahim Imad-ud-din, was appointed Regent, Muhammad Sams-ud-din being at that time under age.

8. About six months later Muhammad Sams-ud-din vacated the throne, and the Regent, who is now known as Sultan Ibrahim Imad-ud-din, took his place.

9. It is alleged that this arrangement was to be only temporary, and that, now that Muhammad Sams-ud-din has arrived at full age, he should be recognized as Sultan.

10. Those who take up this position find a difficulty facing them in the fact that the present *de facto* ruler is the eldest son of the eldest son of the late Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din : and that at the time of the death of Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din, he, Ibrahim Imad-ud-din was the eldest male in the direct line. They get over the difficulty by contending that, as Ibrahim Imad-ud-din's father (Dorre Manipu) was incapacitated from reigning by reason of his physical defect, the incapacity descended to his son ; that Ibrahim Imad-ud-din, although he is the eldest surviving son of the eldest son, cannot succeed to the throne, because his father never occupied it.

11. However this may be, it is now too late, in my opinion, to consider the question. In January, 1894, my predecessor, Sir Arthur Havelock, issued a Commission to Mr. Gerald Browne, his Private Secretary, to proceed to the Maldives as his representative, to there inquire into the circumstances connected with the accession of the present Sultan, Ibrahim Imad-ud-din, to ascertain if it was in accordance with law and custom and in accordance with the wishes of the people. Mr. Browne was instructed, if satisfied on these points, to hand to the Sultan a letter of recognition from the Governor, and to salute the Sultan's flag in token of his recognition.

12. Mr. Browne's report,* a copy of which was forwarded to you by Sir Arthur Havelock with his despatch No. 43 of February 14, 1894,† shows that he did satisfy himself on these points, that he subsequently delivered the Governor's letter to Sultan Ibrahim Imad-ud-din, recognizing him as Sultan, and that at his (Mr. Browne's) instance the Sultan's flag was saluted by H. M. S. "Brisk."

13. It is noteworthy that Ibrahim Didi, who is believed to now support the pretensions of Muhammad Sams-ud-din, was in 1894 the supporter and Chief Minister of Ibrahim Imad-ud-din, the principal means, it is said, of placing him on the throne ; while Muhammad Didi, the present Chief

* See No. 40.

† See No. 41.

Minister of Sultan Ibrahim Imad-ud-din, was the supporter of the claims of Muhammad Sams-ud-din, and addressed on the subject the Secretary of State as well as the Governor.

14. All the proceedings connected with the recognition by the Ceylon Government of the present Sultan, Ibrahim Imad-ud-din, were reported, in due course, by Sir Arthur Havelock to the Secretary of State,* and I see no reason for reopening the consideration of the claims of Muhammad Sams-ud-din.

I have, &c.,
WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 59.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P., to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

Ceylon No. 183.

Downing street, May 18, 1901.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 122 of the 20th ultimo, with which you transmit a letter from Muhammad Sams-ud-din claiming recognition as the rightful Sultan of the Maldive Islands: and I concur in your view that there is now no reason to reopen the question of his claims.

2. I notice that in your despatch you designate the present Sultan as Ibrahim Imad-ud-din and his cousin, the second son of the late Sultan, as Muhammad Imad-ud-din; whereas from the letter of Muhammad Sams-ud-din, and from earlier papers which are before me, it is, I think, evident that the present Sultan's name is Muhammad Imad-ud-din.

I have, &c.,
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 60.

His Highness the Sultan of the Maldive Islands to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

MAY His Excellency's benevolence continue to all times in the future.

We beg to inform Your Excellency that by the grace of God we reached our country and the seat of our Government in safety and good health on Sunday, the 14th day of the month of Safar, and landed on the 25th (? 15th) of that month. The inhabitants of several islands received us with great jubilation. We were much gratified at the pleasure they evinced. We tender our very respectful thanks to Your Excellency for the benevolence with which we were entertained during our stay in Colombo.

On our arriving at this town we found the affairs of our Government in the same satisfactory and orderly condition in which they were when we started from here. Our subjects are enjoying perfect peace. In our dominions there are no disturbances or troubles. We therefore praise the Almighty on that account. We then inquired into the unjust and false reports we heard while in Colombo in regard to the matter of certain chiefs of our State and found that all those (reports) were fictions, which came from the tongues and pens of low and unprincipled men. We say so because Haji Ibrahim Didi and his friend Carinjee Jafferjee and the followers of these two were filling the newspapers with idle and false stories against us and the chief men of our Government. We have not been able to find any cause for these false reports or any remedy for them. The statement made by Haji Ibrahim Didi, that we have confiscated all the property which originally belonged to him, and that he has nothing wherewith to support his children and dependents, is a lie and an unjust charge fabricated against us by him, because he owns yet a town (? an island) larger than any town belonging to us, the income from which is ample for his maintenance and that of his dependents. We therefore think that it is not good that we should permit him to return and live here, and beg of your august presence that Your Excellency will prevent him from coming here. He is one who heads disturbances and causes troubles. This is all.

May Your Excellency live long enjoying perfect health.

Dated Wednesday, the 17th of the month of Safar, 1319 A.H., which corresponds to the 5th of June, 1901 A.D.

No. 61.

Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, June 20, 1901.

I HAVE received Your Highness's letter dated the 17th day of Safar, 1319 A.H., intimating your safe return to your dominions, which, I am pleased to learn, you found in a peaceful and prosperous state. It was a great pleasure to me to have the opportunity of making Your Highness's personal acquaintance, and I trust that the friendly feelings thus inspired will always continue and increase.

I note Your Highness's assurance that Haji Ibrahim Didi's statement, that his property has been confiscated, is inaccurate. I do not, however, feel justified in preventing him, as a British subject, from proceeding to the Maldives and looking after the property which Your Highness states he still possesses there.

I hope shortly to depute an officer of this Government to visit Your Highness's dominions, and I am inclined to think that in future these visits should be at much shorter intervals than hitherto.

I trust that Your Highness is in the enjoyment of good health since your return from Mecca, and that you may be spared to rule over a loyal and faithful people for many years to come.

WEST RIDGEWAY,
Governor.

No. 62.

His Highness the Sultan, of the Maldives to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

WITH due respect and deference we beg to inform your Excellency as follows :—

We received Your Excellency's letter dated 20th June, 1901, and were gratified at the contents thereof. But (we submit that) it is only just that Your Excellency should warn Haji Ibrahim Didi against his returning here. As Your Excellency is not aware of his antecedents, it is necessary for us to bring some of them to Your Excellency's knowledge. They are :—This Ibrahim Didi having caused disturbance during the time of our grandfather Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din was exiled with his family, and was allowed to remain at Galle, where he owned more valuable and extensive and in every way better property than the house he had built at Malé for his residence. Even now he possesses some houses and gardens there. While he was residing there for some years he received in 1301 A. H. the permission of our uncle Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din to return here on his giving a solemn assurance that he would not cause any disturbances among the subjects nor desire any harm to the Government.

But it is an indisputable fact that the disturbances caused by him and the various evils brought about by him cannot be easily described in writing. Some of his doings could be known by a reference to the letters which passed between Your Excellency's Government and this Government within the last eighteen years. After he had established himself in his position here he secured (literally seized) the office of Treasurer of the Exchequer by bribing one of the chiefs of the Lascars. The Sultan was obliged to confer the appointment on him against the Sultan's will. Before the expiration of the third year of his holding that office he made this Government a debtor to Carimjee to the extent of Rs. 30,000. No one who preceded him in that office ever brought such a loss on this State within such a short time. Then, when the Sultan would not yield to his wishes, he set himself up against and dethroned the Sultan and made our brother Muhammad Muin-ud-din Sultan and had him installed as such. In this way some time elapsed. When this Sultan too would not be led by him, he opposed the Sultan. Some houses were set on fire, and some men, among whom were subjects of Your Excellency's Government trading here, were stabbed. It was found on evidence produced that he was the cause of all this, and being then found guilty he was banished to another island. Then he was pardoned and recalled. A few days after his recall he left this for Colombo. There he stayed about ten months and arrived here in a man-of-war. He then deposed our brother and re-installed our uncle aforesaid as Sultan. We are reminded that Ibrahim Didi's going to Colombo now may be with a similar object of creating a revolution. We, however, desire of Your Excellency that by the grace of God and in the exercise of Your Excellency's mercy Your Excellency will not sympathize with him in his wicked intentions and render him any help.

Some time after the death of the Sultan, our uncle aforesaid, the burden of this Government devolved on our shoulders (*literally* neck).

Ever since we accepted the Government, though we did all we could with the object of securing his faithfulness and to establish him in a good position, he seemed unwilling to follow any other course than to betray this Government once more into the hands of Carimjee to the loss of the Government. His desire was to transfer the Government revenue to Carimjee and to render the State resourceless (*literally* empty-handed). When he felt assured that his desire could not be accomplished, he of his own accord relinquished his office. We then invited Mohammed Didi from the Island of Minicoy and conferred on him the vacant office. We, however, allowed him (Ibrahim Didi) to occupy a status and enjoy a salary higher than those of any other Minister. Even then he complained to Your Excellency against us stating that he was detained and wronged by us. But we were altogether innocent, and it was he who was guilty of injustice in accusing us without cause. His going to Colombo was not only in accordance with our own expressed wish and Your Excellency's pleasure, but also as desired by him. Further, he did not as directed by us take with him his brother Abdulla Didi, from whom we feared harm. After he arrived at Colombo he complained to Your Excellency that we had deprived him of his property. We have dealt with this subject in a former communication. These are the evil propensities and acts of his, which we proposed to speak about.

Further, if this man returns and resides here, we fear that either he may endeavour to cause loss to the property of our subjects and to wreak vengeance on them or our subjects may do injury to him or to his property. We fear that such consequences may follow against our wish. It is therefore our desire that the man should not reside here, we being bound by the following sacred law :—“When those who cause disturbances in this world in opposition to ourselves and to our Prophet kill their fellowmen, they are to be put to death; when they not only kill their fellowmen, but also rob them of their property, they are to be crucified and put to death; when they cause loss of property, they should be maimed by the cutting of an alternate arm and leg; when they threaten their fellowmen and terrorize them, they are to be banished.” Besides these punishments there are others.

This is all we have to inform Your Excellency. May Your Excellency live long.

Dated the 11th of Rabiul Ahir 1319 A.H.

No. 63.

J. J. Thorburn, Esq., to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colombo, July 31, 1901.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to report that I left Colombo on the 25th instant for Malé, and arrived there on the 27th morning after a rough passage. On the arrival of the “Pomone” a salute of 21 guns was fired, and soon afterwards Durai Mina Manikfan with some others came on board and arranged that the Sultan should receive a formal visit at 4 P.M. (The Prime Minister Mohammed Didi did not come on board, and I subsequently learnt that his absence was due to a rumour that the “Pomone” had come for the purpose of re-instating Ibrahim Didi.) The salute was duly returned, but sounded somewhat funereally, as it took 45 minutes to accomplish.

At 4 P.M. Captain Simons, accompanied by six naval officers and myself, proceeded to the palace, and after the customary exchange of civilities I handed the Sultan a letter from the Hon. Mr. Taylor and arranged for a private interview at 8 A.M. next morning.

On the 28th morning I was received by the Sultan, and mentioned the projected visit of Professor Agassiz in November next. His Highness said he would have much pleasure in affording him every facility for pursuing his researches on the various Atolls. I then apprised the Sultan of the complaint made by C. L. M. Wappu Marikkar, suggesting that it would be convenient for the Ceylon Government to be placed in possession of the true facts of the case. In reply, His Highness asserted that Wappu Marikkar was not an independent trader; he was a servant of Hassan Didi, and was suspected of giving support to Ibrahim Didi's faction. The Sultan further complained that Wappu Marikkar had transgressed the local law by leaving Malé without formal permission. He had not been forced to go. I took advantage of this reference to Ibrahim Didi to remind the Sultan that at the recent interview with His Excellency the Governor it had transpired that there was considerable divergence of statement with reference to the manner in which Ibrahim Didi had been treated, inasmuch as Ibrahim Didi alleged that his private property had been confiscated, whereas His Highness, I understood, was then under the impression that Ibrahim Didi had been deprived only of such property as he had held by virtue of his office of Prime Minister. It was understood that this difference as to facts was of course due to His Highness's absence from Malé about that time, but I trusted that the misunderstanding had now been cleared up. The Sultan replied that matters were *in statu quo*—Ibrahim Didi's conduct was not such as to gain his approbation. He saw no prospect of coming to any amicable arrangement, but would state his views clearly in a letter to His Excellency the Governor.

His Highness then asked how he could prosecute the *Ceylon Muhammedan* for unfounded and scurrilous attacks on his administration and asked for advice. I suggested that newspaper comments, such as he referred to, were unworthy of notice, and he said he was satisfied to take no action.

I then suggested the desirability of maintaining a beacon to mark the main channel into Malé Atoll, and the Sultan expressed his readiness to do anything in his power. After this I left, his interview having lasted about half an hour.

Hakura Manikfan accompanied me, and after seeing the Customs house, &c., I suggested that I no longer desired his attendance, but he declined politely to leave me, on the ground that the Sultan had told him to escort me, and he could not be so discourteous as to leave me by myself. I had wished to see Ibrahim Didi's people, who I had reason to believe were being somewhat harshly treated and not allowed to move freely about the Island. I asked Hakura Manikfan how it was I had not seen Ibrahim Didi's son, whom I had known some years ago at Galle. He said Ibrahim Didi's people had perfect freedom of action and could do as they pleased. I took the opportunity of passing by Ibrahim Didi's house, and seeing his son inside called him out and exchanged a few words with him. His manner led me to suppose that Hakura Manikfan's statements were inaccurate. At 11 A.M. the Sultan came on board accompanied by his brother, Mohamed Didi, Hassan Didi (who is said to be under a cloud at present), Hakura Manikfan, and a number of others. The ship was dressed and a salute of 21 guns fired. The Sultan, who first exchanged his State robe for a more suitable dress, was then shown all the usual sights. A shell was fired from a four-inch gun, a torpedo was launched, a mine was exploded, and His Highness manipulated a quick-firing gun and scored with a Morris-tubed rifle, making a bull's eye with his first shot. A scratch orchestra then performed, and the Sultan took a keen interest in seeing the sailors dance.

Mr. Plâté took several group photographs with the Sultan as central figure. His Highness had no objection, on the distinct understanding that he was to have presentation copies. His Highness before leaving with great reluctance, and on ascertaining there was no more to show him, handed me letters for His Excellency the Governor and the Hon. Mr. Taylor, and asked me to inform His Excellency that his brother proposed to visit Ceylon early in August and remain there a month or two to see Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, &c.

In the afternoon I went with Captain Simons to inspect the main entrance, some 3 miles north of Malé, and we had some successful fishing. It was ascertained that one of the reefs shown in the Admiralty Chart of 1836 corrected to date has entirely disappeared, and strangely enough Hassan Didi has another Admiralty Chart of 1866 showing things as they really are. In the evening the electric search light was flashed on Malé for the delectation of the inhabitants.

On the 29th I went on shore with Captain Simons, who took his bike with him. I had not landed five minutes before the ubiquitous Hakura Manikfan took me in charge and refused to be shaken off, so I made him useful in collecting information as to plants and flowers required by Mr. Willis, and secured some specimens. At 1 P.M. the "Pomone" left for Colombo and began her steam trials doing 17 knots an hour for the first four hours and then dropping to 14. Colombo was reached at 9 A.M. on July 31.

I am, &c.

J. J. THORBURN.

No. 64.

His Highness the Sultan of the Maldive Islands to the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway.
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

MAY His Excellency's greatness ever continue.

Tendering infinite thanks and praises to Your Excellency for the acts of kindness and favour done to us so freely when we visited the country which enjoys Your Excellency's sacred, august, and sublime presence, we beg to inform Your Excellency that we received on the 23rd of July Your Excellency's letter dated 20th June. We have read and understood that letter, in which Your Excellency said that Your Excellency was awaiting an opportunity to send an officer of Your Excellency's Government to visit our country, and that Your Excellency thought it desirable that such visits should in future be more frequent.

Further, we have noted what Your Excellency said in respect of Haji Ibrahim Didi—that Your Excellency saw no reason to prevent him from returning to us. We find it therefore expedient and necessary to bring to the knowledge of your sacred presence certain important facts and statements, and in doing so we do not mean in any way to cross Your Excellency's opinions, to wit:—

Firstly.—We are pleased and rejoice to learn that officers of Your Excellency's Government will come to us in men-of-war to satisfy themselves as to the state of our country, as this Government receives the protection afforded by such visits at little cost and without having to pay anything in return, it (the protection) being granted as a charitable aid. The common people of this country would, however, view them (such visits) with suspicion owing to Haji Ibrahim Didi having, during the time he was administering the affairs of this Government as a Minister, publicly and privately told the common people as well as the chiefs that the Government of Ceylon would take his part to assist him, and that that Government would help him to recover his property in the Maldives. He also used to show as proofs that he held the offices of Consul and Justice of the Peace. Besides his holding those titles and speaking as he did, on some occasions certain things occurred here which lent support to his words. As the common people of this country have not emerged from their child-like ignorance and from barbarism, and as they can only judge from appearances without looking into the hidden meanings, they may misconstrue the more frequent visits than hitherto of the officers of Your Excellency's Government.

Secondly.—The property owned by Haji Ibrahim Didi at Malé in common with his brothers and sisters, unless it be that he has hidden some of his wealth so as not to be seen by anybody, is worth less than Rs. 10,000. He owns in Ceylon property worth several times more than this. His father, who obtained pardon and was translated to the other world, misappropriated large sums of money during the time of our grandfather, the late Muhammadu Imad-ud-din of blessed memory, and bolted to Galle, where, with a portion of those moneys, he bought lands, gardens, &c. It is therefore better for Haji Ibrahim Didi to stay over there and look after those properties than to come and stay here. He can there be a British subject and carry on the business of a Consul and Justice of the Peace.

Thirdly.—In the same manner as his father aforesaid, who was translated to the other world, misappropriated moneys and bolted to Galle, Diddu Don Kalegifu also stole some moneys during the time of our uncle, the late Ibrahim Nur-ud-din of blessed memory, and bolted to Minicoy and settled down there. To this day he is at Minicoy. From there he went with a band of men all armed with swords to Diddu, the island in which he was born, and having intimidated the inhabitants returned to Minicoy with such things as he wished to take.

Fourthly.—When we have been, as in the incident here referred to, powerless to check and control one of our own subjects, what would our case be in dealing with a British subject, and that, too, one who in his youth was an adept in the tricks of cunning and artfulness, and in his middle age was an expert in such things? Further, he was for some years bent on devising in his mind plans to create disturbances against us.

Fifthly.—Did not Haji Ibrahim Didi when he was in safety and security prefer a manifold complaint against us saying that he was being wronged by us, that he feared his life was in danger, that he was anxious as to the fate of his property and inheritance, that he was kept under restraint in a kind of imprisonment, and that he could not obtain permission to go to Galle, Ceylon? How could it be good in his sight to return to this place, where he dreads imprisonment and hardships? We have withdrawn from him the gift he enjoyed as salary and the authority which he had as Prime Minister. We have reserved one island for his wife, who is our aunt, to derive the income from.

Sixthly.—With the exception of his wife, Haji Ibrahim Didi has no relations here whom he has to care for, or for whose sake he has got to be here. By the help of God we will well look after that lady. He would not be bound to support any others were he here.

Seventhly.—When we started for Ceylon with Haji Ibrahim Didi we instructed his son Abdul Majid Didi and his brother Abdulla Didi to come along with him. We told Haji Ibrahim Didi also to bring them both with him. He did not comply with the order. He left them at Malé and accompanied us. We brought this to Your Excellency's notice when we personally saw Your Excellency in Colombo. They have remained here in the place of Haji Ibrahim Didi, and have done all they could to incite the people by various artifices and tricks. To this day they are working with the people with the same object. This is what they do, they say: "Haji Ibrahim Didi is seeking the assistance of the Ceylon Government. As soon as he gets assistance he will come. When he comes here he will be independent of this Government." If, therefore, these two men do not obey our orders, how can we administer the Government so long as there are such men.

Eighthly.—If Haji Ibrahim Didi comes here, he and his party will try to win over or drag people to their side by their cunning and artifice. We therefore fear that he may again create in regard to this Government a disturbance of the kind he caused by his artifice once before, in which the sword was used. May the Lord save us from such disturbances.

Ninthly.—The island which we have set apart for the benefit of the wife of Haji Ibrahim Didi is in the east to the left. It is called Jilittu, and belongs to Nilandu Atoll. This was the island which was assigned to Haji Ibrahim Didi's grandfather for his services as a Minister during the time of our grandfather Imad-ud-din.

Tenthly.—Haji Ibrahim Didi, his son Ahamed Didi, and his brother Abdulla Didi held offices and received gifts from us as salary according to their deserts and sufficient to supply their needs. They enjoyed these gifts until differences arose between them and us owing to their refusal to sign the oath of allegiance, which we asked them to sign a little before our leaving the island. We wrote about these (differences) at that time also. Then we referred to their concocting and publishing false reports against us and being disobedient. We therefore, owing to their opposition to us, as we informed Your Excellency before this, took back the gifts they had received.

Eleventhly.—One of the long established public rules of this Government is that when a foreigner does not submit to the laws, decisions, and authority of this Government, and dares to be stubborn, he should be sent back to his home or to a town like Ceylon. There has been no exception to this rule, and even to this day it is in force. This is a wholesome rule on which rests the administration and safety of this Government. It is a well-known fact that the administration of this Government is carried on, and the suppression of disturbances which are feared both here and elsewhere is effected, not by the exercise of the authority of this Government or by the influence of

the revenue collected, but it is by the help of the Ceylon Government which is so freely rendered, by the friendship and companionship of the Governors of Ceylon, which the Sultans have enjoyed, and by the goodwill and favour bestowed and the confidence reposed on the Sultans by the Governors of Ceylon that the Government is established. We therefore beg earnestly that in the exercise of all these qualities Your Excellency will render us help.

This is all we have now to inform Your Excellency. Salaams.

Dated the 18th day of Rabbiul Ahir, A.H. 1319, which corresponds to the 3rd of August, 1901 A.D.

No. 65.

Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., to the
Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P.

Miscellaneous.—No. 382.

Queen's Cottage, Nuwara Eliya,
Ceylon, September 24, 1901.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to address you on the subject of the Government of the Maldivé Islands.

2. The relations between the Ceylon Government and the Government of the Maldivé Islands were defined in the year 1887 by an agreement, the terms of which were communicated to you in Sir Arthur Gordon's despatch No. 2 of 4th January, 1888.* By this agreement Sultan Muhammad Muin-ud-din—

- (a) Acknowledged the authority (suzerainty) of the Sovereign of Great Britain as represented by the Government of Ceylon over the Maldivé Islands;
 - (b) Further acknowledged that he was not at liberty to enter into any negotiations or treaty regarding his islands with any foreign State, except through the Ruler of Ceylon, and renounced all intention of doing so; and
 - (c) Desired confirmation of himself as Sultan and similar confirmation of successors.
3. Sir Arthur Gordon by his letter to the Sultan, dated 23rd December, 1887—†
- (a) Confirmed the Sultan and promised recognition of his successors;
 - (b) Engaged on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen to protect and defend the Maldives from all foreign enemies whatsoever; and
 - (c) Engaged in Her Majesty's name to interfere in no manner in the local affairs of the Maldives in either the framing or the administration of the laws, or in any other matter of purely internal concern.

4. Although Sir Arthur Gordon engaged, in perhaps too unreserved a manner, not to interfere in any way in the local affairs of the Maldivé Islands "in either the framing or the administration of the laws or in any other matter of purely local concern," yet you will no doubt agree that, as in the case of protected native States in India, to which a similar undertaking has been given, the obligation of defending the Maldives from foreign aggression, which we have undertaken (to say nothing of the rights of control inherent in the suzerainty), entails upon the Sultan the correlative duty of good government and of maintaining order in his territory. Should disorder break out, and especially if such disorder were the result of unjust or ineffective government, the Suzerain has the right to interfere.

5. Should you accept this proposition as sound, then the question arises whether and how it should be applied, if necessary, in the case of the Maldivé Islands.

6. The changes which have recently occurred in the Maldivian Administration have been narrated in my despatches No. 314 of 29th August, 1900, and No. 122 of 20th April, 1901. I consider that the expulsion from office of Ibrahim Didi was justifiable and possibly desirable, and the steps taken by the Sultan, who appears to be a capable, although perhaps not altogether a judicious ruler, have been beneficial to his country. Unfortunately the Sultan has not contented himself with depriving Ibrahim Didi of office, but, if the *ex*-Minister speaks the truth, he has also confiscated his property. This the Sultan denies, and he states that the only properties he has taken from the *ex*-Minister are atolls or isles, the revenue of which is the perquisite of the Minister of the day. On the other hand, Ibrahim Didi alleges that the Sultan has confiscated atolls and other property which were hypothecated to his father and himself in payment of loans of money made by them from time to time to the reigning Sultan. It is difficult to say whether the Sultan or the *ex*-Minister speaks the truth; probably there is suppression or exaggeration on either side, but the Sultan, to whom I fruitlessly suggested arbitration, refuses any redress or even hearing of the claim.

7. Ibrahim Didi claims our interference as a British subject, and if he were a British subject, we should be entitled to interfere in his favour, whatever the nature of our political engagements to the Sultan. Ibrahim Didi, however, has failed to prove that he is a British subject, although he possesses property in Ceylon, and his father, Ali Didi, is registered here as a British shipowner, and he is accredited by Turkey as her Consular representative at Galle.

8. But there are other grounds on which we can interfere, if you consider it desirable that we should do so. Ibrahim Didi is now in Ceylon, and the Sultan, as you will observe from the accompanying extracts from his recent letters, calls upon me to detain him in Ceylon, as his arrival in the Maldives would be the cause of disorder, possibly leading to bloodshed. I do not believe that the Sultan's fears are sincere, or that any disturbance would follow Ibrahim Didi's return to his home.

9. But it seems to me that the admission of the Sultan that such disturbances are probable, unless we, our hand forced by his highhanded and arbitrary action, forcibly detain his *ex*-Minister, justifies our interference in the matter. I would accordingly, with your approval, call upon the Sultan to submit the question, unless he can amicably settle it himself, to an arbitrator to be nominated by the Suzerain. Should His Highness refuse, which I do not anticipate, it will be possible to put pressure on him.

* See No. 12.

† See No. 11.

10. I may add that several petitions have lately reached me from tradesmen residing in the Maldives, claiming to be British subjects, in which they protest against alleged arbitrary proceedings on the part of the Sultan. I do not think that there is much ground for these complaints, but the Sultan is young and headstrong, and requires a reminder that he is not an independent Sovereign, and that he must listen to our advice.

11. I should like to follow the Indian practice and station an accredited newsagent in Malé, who would keep me informed of the course of events, but it would be difficult to find any one who, on the small salary which would be attached to the post, would not yield to the temptation and corruption of this intriguing little Mohammedan State. Under these circumstances the only alternative is to make the visits of the representative of the Governor more frequent than at present.

12. In conclusion, I would emphatically record my opinion that unnecessary interference in the affairs of the Maldivian Islands should be avoided as much as possible, and that it is most undesirable that we should undertake, even indirectly, the administration of their affairs. I am, therefore, most reluctant to take any action which would weaken the authority of the Sultan, who favourably impresses me with the promise of being a capable ruler when he ceases to listen to mischievous advisers, and appreciates his true relations to the Suzerain.

I have, &c.,
WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 66.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P., to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

Ceylon.—No. 403.

Downing street, October 25, 1901.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 382 of the 24th ultimo, suggesting for my approval that you should call upon the Sultan of the Maldivian Islands to submit to arbitration the question which has arisen between His Highness and his late Prime Minister Ibrahim Didi.

2. I am content to leave the matter to your discretion, but should prefer that, unless you think it absolutely necessary, the action proposed in paragraph 9 of your despatch should not be taken, as it seems to me very desirable that the Ceylon Government should, as far as possible, abstain from intervening in the local disputes of the Maldives.

I have, &c.,
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 67.

The Maldivian Ministers to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G.,
K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

MAY His Excellency's stature be exalted with all health and pleasure.

The purport of our petition to Your Excellency with great submission and respect is that His Highness Prince Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, the eldest son of the late Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din Iskandar, and true heir to the Sultanate of Maldivian Islands, has just reached his age of majority, and is thereby fit to undertake and manage the affairs and duties of the Government and the State according to our law and custom.

We have therefore enthroned him in the seat of the Sultan with the full consent and agreement of all the subjects of Maldivian Islands.

That during his minority His Highness Muhammad Inad-ud-din was appointed Regent before nine years, and the present change has been effected with the agreement of all the subjects of Maldives, and it is in accordance with the laws and rules of Maldives and our custom from ancient time; and we pray Your Excellency to accept and recognize the present Sultan of Maldives with the name of Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, and to support him as the Sultan of our country.

Dated 14th Del Haj, 1320.

[Most of the signatures unintelligible.]

No. 68.

Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

I BEG to inform you that I have been appointed to the Sultanate of Maldives with the full consent and agreement of all the principals, Ministers, and subjects, and made Sultan over them as was my late father Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of Maldives, before.

And I hope that Your Excellency will accept and recognize me as the Sultan of Maldivian Islands, and be with me as the Government of Ceylon was with my late father and the previous Sultans and regard my subjects with affection and favour.

Dated 14th Del Haj, 1320.

[Bears seal of Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din.]

No. 69.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar Effendi.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
April 4, 1903.

HIS Excellency the Governor has received your letter dated Hijarat 1320, and desires me to reply to it.

2. In that letter you announce that all the inhabitants, Ministers, and Officers of State of the Maldivian Islands have accepted you as Sultan, and you request His Excellency the Governor to recognize you as such. And the so-called Ministers of the Maldives have also addressed His Excellency

the Governor to the same effect, and they add that you are the lawful heir to the throne and have now arrived at the proper age to take over and carry on the administration in place of His Highness Muhammad Inad-ud-din, who has been acting as guardian.

3. It therefore appears that Sultan Mubammad Imad-ud-din, who was formally recognized by the British Government as Sultan, has been deposed in his absence by you and others, not on the ground of maladministration or any fault, which might justly excite dissatisfaction among his people, but because you consider his absence to be a suitable opportunity for asserting claims to the Sultanate which the British Government has already, in the letter of the Colonial Secretary to your address dated 28th March, 1898, dismissed as untenable.

Under these circumstances His Excellency the Governor cannot listen to your request; and I am further to warn you that, although His Excellency is unwilling to interfere in the internal affairs of the Maldives, disorder and violence cannot be tolerated there, and should these results follow from your action you and those who advise you will be held personally responsible.

EVERARD IM THURN,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 70.

Telegram from His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

Suez, April 5, 1903.

I LEARNED that some designing rebellious peoples at Maldives plotted with Colombo Bombay merchants and overthrown my brother Manduge Dori Manipulu who was acting for me, and Tutige Manipulu usurped. I beg to approach Your Excellency to take steps; send cruiser, help my brother, place him in power again. Moosbhai Shaikh Hiptulabhor, Maldivian Interpreter Marikar, to be taken in confidence with Excellency. Wish they may be allowed to go with cruiser. Please reply.

No. 71.

Telegram from Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives.

Nuwara Eliya, April 6, 1903.

I cannot actually interfere. I advise Your Highness to return at once.

WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 72.

Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., to the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P.

The Queen's Cottage, Nuwara Eliya,
Ceylon, April 8, 1903.

Miscellaneous.—No. 128.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to address you on the subject of affairs in the Maldivian Islands.

2. His Highness the Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din has for some time been absent from the Islands on a visit to Suez (where he has since contracted a marriage with the daughter of a prominent resident of that place), leaving as Regent his brother known as Dori Manipul.

3. Last week unofficial information was received in Colombo that a change of rulers had been effected, and that Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, commonly known as Mulinge Manipul, son of the late Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din, had deposed the Regent and himself seized upon the Government. It appeared that at 2 A.M. on 12th March, Mulinge Manipul went to the palace at Malé, then occupied by servants only, had the Lascars who constitute the Sultan's bodyguard summoned by beat of tom-tom, and announced to them that he had ascended the throne of his ancestors—a statement which was apparently acquiesced in by them. The Ministers, hearing of this, assembled at the house of the Regent, a short distance from the palace, but did nothing until daylight, when they went to speak to the Lascars who were assembled on the esplanade near the palace. The Commandant of the Lascars is said to have addressed them and invited them to attend at the Regent's house, but was seized by the throat and pushed aside. The Kazi (Judge) then addressed them, pointing out that their lawful Sovereign was at Suez, but nevertheless they declared for Mulinge Manipul. Upon this the Ministers retired to the Regent's house to report, and ultimately the Prime Minister and the Commandant of the Lascars went over to the palace, where they recognized Mulinge Manipul as Sultan, and the Regent remained at his house without attempting to assert his authority. I understand that no disturbance or bloodshed occurred, but that the Kazi (Judge) and some other less prominent persons have been banished to outlying islands.

4. On 27th March there appeared in Colombo two Maldivians bearing a letter addressed to me by Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar (Mulinge Manipul) himself informing me of his assumption of power as Sultan, that the Ministers, Officers of State, and inhabitants of the Islands have accepted him as such, and requesting that I should formally recognize him as Sultan. The same envoys brought a further letter to the same effect purporting to be signed by the Ministers.

5. The claims of Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar were fully considered and rejected in 1901, a course which was approved by your despatch No. 183 of the 18th May, 1901, and I have in pursuance of the policy then adopted caused a letter to be addressed to Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar (copy of which is enclosed*) declining his request for recognition, and warning him that should any disturbance occur I shall hold him and his advisers personally responsible.

6. There is no doubt that the prolonged absence of the Sultan during two successive years—last year on a visit to Mecca, and this year to Egypt—and the large sums of money which he has consequently expended have caused considerable dissatisfaction among his people, and these events should be a lesson to him in future. I propose to depute an officer to inquire into the state of things

* See No. 69.

at Malé, and to give the Sultan all the moral support in my power should the result of that inquiry prove that it is desirable to do so. Beyond this I do not propose to interfere. I should prefer to postpone the inquiry until the return of the Sultan, but it may be necessary to take earlier action. I should be glad to learn by cable that you approve of my proposed action.

WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 73.

Manduge Dori Manipul, *ex-Regent*, to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

MAY God help him to success.

It is submitted for the information of His Excellency that about 10 P.M. on the night of 11th March last, when people had gone to sleep, some of the supporters of Ibrahim Didi, the exile, and of Hassan Didi placed our uncle's son on the throne, and some bad characters with guns, &c., joined them and rushed on the State and Army officials.

If not for the fact that our policy is under the shadow and protection of your powerful Government, the fire of war would have been kindled, and it would have resulted in great loss of life on both sides, and our brother would have been ejected from the throne.

But in order, however, to avoid loss of life in the army we let them to their wishes, trusting and depending on your ample support and expecting for victory at the hands of Your Excellency. At that time one of the principal Ministers was away in Colombo and another in Suez. Some of the remaining Ministers have been exiled, and among them the Minister Majid Hakra Manik-fan and Naib Tuttu, the Secretary, and some are incarcerated in the country.

Now the request is for help against those miscreants and their punishment.

MANDUGE DORI MANIPUL.

Dated 10th Moharren, 1321 (9th April, 1903).

No. 74.

The Ministers of the Maldive Islands to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

MAY his fame increase.

We beg to submit to Your Excellency with due respect and honour that we have been requested by His Highness our Sultan, who is our esteemed master and our respected friend and protector, Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, to write to Your Excellency some of the causes that led to the deposal of Muhammad Imad-ud-din, and they are as follows :—

(1) That he, Mohammad Imad-ud-din, expended all the amber which was in the Treasury, also the money and gold and silver articles and other valuable and rare things which had been treasured for generations in the past ages, most of which were in the Treasury at the death of Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din Iskandar, the father of the present sitting Sultan, and Muhammad Imad-ud-din lost all of them, and the Treasury is become empty.

(2) That he was spending all the funds belonging to the Government for his private expenses, and did not expend them for the needs of Government.

(3) That he rendered the Government of Maldives indebted in a disgraceful manner by wasting the substance of the Treasury in unnecessary things; that the Government finds it very difficult to find means to pay that debt.

(4) That he appointed his brothers-in-law, the brothers of his wife, men who were in very low positions, to posts of importance in matters of Government, in order that they might be a tool for him to do whatever comes to his mind without consulting the great Ministers and the Government officials. He made one of his brothers-in-law named Ahmad Didi Hakra Manik-fan an independent agent "mukayyar." That he does whatever he chooses, and his orders have become like his Sultan's, even if it was such that one's liver would shatter into pieces, and on account of him a good deal of lawlessness resulted in Maldives.

(5) That when the (kundira) boatmen with dry fish went to Colombo to sell them this season as usual, Ahmad Didi Hakra Manik-fan and Habeebu Lebbe (the Maldivian Interpreter) ordered them not to sell their things except to one particular merchant, who is a friend of his, at a very low rate, for the benefit of these two specially, but some of them sold their things to others at an increased price; and when the said Ahmad Didi Hakra Manik-fan heard this he asked Muhammad Imad-ud-din, who was then in Colombo, to chastise them with severe lashes, and it was ordered accordingly, and every one of them were given forty lashes on their back, having been prostrated on their faces, on their return to Maldives.

(6) That he dispossessed several subjects of their properties which they had inherited from their parents and grandparents in the islands; and their protestations were of no avail, and not even their wails.

(7) That he collected a large amount of money from all the men holding appointments under the Government to be spent in clearing the harbour in Raseefi, the port of Maldives, and then neglected the work of clearing the harbour, and spent all the money collected to meet all his personal needs as prompted by his fancy.

(8) That when he left this place this time he made it known to people that he was going to Colombo for a change of air and to recoup health, and he took all that were left in the Treasury of gold and silver rupees and he concealed it from the principal Ministers, and then he went to Suez from Colombo and got married there, spending all he had in that matter, and wired to some Bombay merchants in Colombo and Maldives to send him a large number of things and thousands of rupees as a loan upon the condition that all the things imported to Maldives shall be exempted from duty till their debt was repaid. Similarly, he wired to his brother Manduge Manipulu, who was acting for him, to send a large sum of money in gold and silver rupees, and as the Treasury was empty he gave a power of attorney to Ahmad Didi Hakra Manik-fan authorizing him to raise a

loan of fifty to hundred thousand rupees by any means from Bômbay merchants or others of from any Government, and he proceeded to Colombo with that power of attorney and borrowed twenty thousand rupees from Taibaly Jevunjee Noorbhai also upon the afore-mentioned condition, and sent that money to Muhammad Imad-ud-din at Suez. He also gave a power of attorney to a Parsee named Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee, and granted him great powers in the letter, authorizing a loan of seventy-five thousand rupees by whatever means, and we have sent those two copies with this letter to Your Excellency. We have not mentioned a great many things in this letter, but think this enough.

When all the people and the great officials heard about this, which astonished them, and that as they had already been tyrannized by his past acts of wickedness, they all of one voice and mind decided upon deposing Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din and appointing Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar to the Sultanate, as he was the eldest son of the late Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din Iskandar, for he is the true heir to the Sultanate of Maldives, he having attained to the age of discretion (majority), and we have accepted His Highness as our Sultan, and shall not have another at all.

We had consented to his supervising the affairs of the Government till the present Sultan attained to his age of majority.

Wherefore we pray Your Excellency to recognize him as our Sultan, and extend to him and to us your affection and favour.

May Your Excellency's days shine with good qualities, and the generosity may never end.

This is testified to by the great Ministers, officials, and leading subjects.

MOHAMMED DIDI RANNABANDERI KILEK-FAN
(Prime Minister).

MOOSA MAFAI KILEK-FAN.

AHMAD IBRAHIM DIDI.

MEDUKADUVARAR MANIKFOOLU.

KAKAGE MANIPULU.

KANSUDORUGE MANIPULU.

NOOMARA KADUVAR MANIPULU.

NOOMARA KAUDEWAR TUTTU MANIFULU.

CATEEBU HUSEIN, Maldivian Judge.

ALY DIDI, Attorney-General.

ISMAIL DIDI DORI MEENA MANIK-FAN,

Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Minister.

HASSAN DIDI VILANA MANIK-FAN, Minister and
the Head of the City.

IBRAHIM IBUNU MOOSA DIDI, Secretary to the
Sultan.

HASSAN MAFEE TAKIR-FAN.

ABDULLA DIDI.

ALY DIDI.

SEYED MOHAMMED.

SEYED ABDULLA.

ABDUL MAJID IBUN IBRAHIM DIDI.

ISMAIL DIDI

MOHAMMED IBUN ALY DIDI ADAN.

HASSAN MANIK, Minister of Marine.

HASSAN IBRAHIM.

[And several other signatures not intelligible.]

Signed 7th Safar, 1321.

No. 75.

His Highness Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J.
West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

MAY his reign ever last long.

What we beg to inform Your Excellency is that there arrived yesterday by the steamer Aska from Colombo a certain Maldivian personage with his family having been to the holy city of Mecca and performed "Haj" (the rites, &c., performed by pilgrims) this year, and we heard that Your Excellency had given a reply to my letter written on the 14th of the month of Thil Haj, 1320, into the hands of our Ambassador, and that he left Colombo with it in the vessel Jimka, but that vessel has not reached here as yet on account of the blowing in the sea during this season, which is variable, and I am sorry on account of the delay of the receipt of the reply to my letter.

We also wish to inform Your Excellency that the object of the two letters dated the 14th Thil Haj by me and my Ministers was simply to acquaint the fact of my appointment to the Sultanate of the Maldives with the consent of the mass and the change of Government of the place, and it was not our intention to detail all the causes that led to the deposal of my cousin Muhammad Imad-ud-din in two letters referred to, and we did not mention in those two letters the injustice, oppressions, and the infringement of the customs relating to Maldives and its laws and regulations, and the extravagances committed with the money in the Treasury and misrule.

In consequence of the foregoing circumstances the Government has become very poor and the subjects are in great straits. We deferred mentioning them as we disliked exposing the faults of my cousin Muhammad Imad-ud-din by stating all his shameful and wicked actions in the first instance. Since it is necessary and obligatory to explain to you those reasons we requested our Ministers to state a few of those facts for Your Excellency's information, and they will appear in the letter addressed by the Ministers written after consulting the people, great and small.

I also inform you that all the Ministers and the Government officials who were under my cousin Muhammad Imad-ud-din are with me at present as they were before in the various offices held by them, except Ahmad Didi Hakra Manik-fan, Moosa Dahra Takuru-fan, and Naib Tuttu, who have been dismissed at the urgent and joint request of the inhabitants, for these three were the heads

of misdeeds and crimes, and at present the country is perfectly peaceful and tranquil and safe, and I am happy to say that my subjects are at present perfectly content, peaceable, and orderly, and I am the more glad that they are at ease, and there is no disagreement, disturbance, oppression, or crime at all, the truth of which can be verified if you send some one from there to this place to see the same and I hope that you will be pleased to accept me as the Sultau and support me and my subjects with full affection and favour as were the Governors of Ceylon with my father, the late Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din Iskandar, and not help him whose enmity to us is known to Your Excellency.

Malé, 8th month of Safar, 1321.

No. 76.

His Highness Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

MAY His Excellency's worth increase.

I beg to inform Your Excellency that I received on 8th May (10th of Safar, 1321 A.H.) Your Excellency's letter dated 4th April 1903, and another dated the 6th idem, which followed it. I have read and understood the contents of those two letters. From the former I understood that it seemed to Your Excellency that I caused this change and asserted my claim, not because of any fault or maladministration on the part of my uncle's son Muhammad Imad-ud-din, but because I thought that his absence was a suitable opportunity for me. But I beg to submit that this suspicion expressed by Your Excellency has caused great pain to my mind. The facts are not in accordance with that suspicion, which will disappear on receipt by Your Excellency of the letter which accompanied my letter of the 7th of Safar, 1321 A.H., from my Ministers. Those letters will have brought to Your Excellency's knowledge certain things which happened here. In those letters have been stated the improper conduct, the weakness, the loss, the want, the fault, the injustice, and the violence caused to the Maldivian Government during the time of my uncle's son Muhammad Imad-ud-din, and some of the reasons which led to his being deposed from the throne. Further, one of the reasons which caused this Government to fall into the ruinous state in which it is now is this: my uncle's son above referred to carried on this Government in accordance with the evil advice of his wife's brother Ahmad Didi Hakra Manik-fan, and perpetrated a lot of injustice in accordance with the wish of his brother-in-law without heeding the advice of the greater Ministers. These two played with this State as children play with balls. Further, another of the reasons is that my uncle's son Muhammad Imad-ud-din above referred to listened to and acted in accordance with the advice of a Masuji named Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee. Through this Masuji Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee this Government is entangled in a ruinous debt and is involved. This is not a debt incurred for the benefit of this Government or of this country, or to meet any of their needs. Yet another of the reasons is he has squandered altogether the invaluable wealth accumulated in the Treasury from the early days to the present day. Things being so, this change was made in accordance with the customs and laws in force at the Island of Malé, a change which I could not have effected easily, however much I tried. I however accepted this Government only at the united and urgent request of all the people of Malé. The reason for their so doing is because they could not endure the hardship, the injustice, and the unlimited cruelty caused to the people by my uncle's son Muhammad Imad-ud-din, and because I am the lawful heir to rule the Government of the Maldives. I have no other desire or pleasure than that my State and subjects should be well and happy and with loyal feelings should prosper. Further, I would state that I confidently undertake the responsibility imposed on me in the concluding part of Your Excellency's letter in regard to any injustice or disorder that may be caused here.

Further, in the second letter I was asked whether it was a fact or not that I had imprisoned my uncle's son Dori Manipul. In reply, I would state that it is a pure fabrication and a serious falsehood. (May God be angry with people who cause disturbance by telling lies like this.) Assuredly Manduge Manipul is in his palace in the enjoyment of good health. He is in the same state as he was, and enjoys the same respect as he did formerly, and he visits the houses of his wives, of his mother, and of his relatives. If proper inquiries are made it can be ascertained in what state he is here, and the truth can be found out. Further, in that letter inquiry was made about the exile of certain Ministers. In reply to this I would invite Your Excellency's attention to my letter of 7th of Safar, 1321 A.H., in which I stated as follows:—All officers and Ministers who served under my uncle's son Muhammad Imad-ud-din are holding their respective offices and positions under me too, with the exception of the Third Minister Ahmad Didi Hakra Manik-fan, the Seventh Minister Moosa Dahara Takuru-fan, and the Scribe Naibu Tutta, three in number. The people of this country having earnestly requested that these should be removed from their offices, and these having been the primary cause of the many unjust acts and losses which took place here, they were removed from their offices, and because the people urgently requested, and because it is against the laws and customs of the Maldives to retain in this Island people who create disturbances, they were banished to some other islands.

I honestly and assuredly state that at present there is no disturbance, injustice, or violence here at all. I am not one who likes anything of that kind at any time. I therefore request that the true facts connected with this change may be ascertained, and that in accordance with justice, the tenets of religion, and the laws and customs of the Maldivian Islands, I may be accepted as Sultan, and I pray and trust Your Excellency's kindness, favour, and protection may always be granted to me and my subjects.

May Your Excellency enjoy long life and all the pleasures the heart desires.

Dated the 21st of Safar, 1321 A.H., which corresponds to the 10th May, 1903.

No. 77.

Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., to the Hon. Mr. E. F. im Thurn, C.B., C.M.G.

THE situation in the Maldives has been described in my despatch No. 128 of 8th April* to the Secretary of State, who has approved of my subsequent proposal (see my telegram of 1st May)

* See No. 72.

to depute the Lieutenant-Governor to proceed in a man-of-war to the Maldives with the object—if his inquiry proves this to be desirable—of replacing the Sultan in power.

It will be observed that I have made two (I think justifiable) assumptions: (1) That the Sultan has not been deposed on account of maladministration, which would justify such a step; and (2) that his deposition during his absence was the result of the intrigues of a few persons and not the spontaneous act of the people, and that consequently his restoration will not be resisted.

The Sultan arrives at Colombo with his bride and suite on 10th instant, and it has been arranged that he should leave in a steamer which has been chartered for him on the 14th, so as to arrive at Malé about twenty-four hours after the Lieutenant-Governor.

It will be left to him to decide whether he takes his bride and all his suite with him, but I think we should insist on his not taking Mr. Dadabhoj Nusserwanjee. I understand that this man is the cause of most of the Sultan's difficulties, that he is a bad adviser, and is very unpopular in the Maldives. It is, moreover, scarcely decent that the Sultan should have as his principal adviser a British subject, who continues to annoy us by vexatious litigation.

It is essential that the Sultan should not regard our intervention in his favour as a matter of course. He should, as a preliminary, be warned that I regard with grave dissatisfaction the state of things at the Maldives, and that I cannot but attribute the crisis which has occurred to his neglect of his duties, more especially to his prolonged absence this and last year and the consequent expenditure of public money.

Whether or not the British Government interferes to replace him in power depends on the result of your inquiries at Malé, and on his being ready to give assurance that he will devote himself in future to his duties as Ruler. More particularly I must require assurance on the following points:—

- (1) That he will not again quit his territory without giving his Government an opportunity of expressing an opinion as to the expediency of his doing so.
- (2) That he will grant no trading monopolies or concessions which this Government may consider injurious to our trade.
- (3) That he will give guarantees for the payment of the advances of money, &c., made by Mr. Noorbhai at the instance of this Government to enable him to return home.
- (4) That, as required above, he will leave behind him Mr. Dadabhoj Nusserwanjee, and that he will not allow this man to return to Malé without previous reference to this Government.

If the Sultan agrees to these conditions, then it ought to be arranged that he arrives at Malé at least twenty-four hours after the Lieutenant-Governor. If he does not agree, then he must dispense with our assistance. It would be as well, however, in any case to make local inquiry, and the Lieutenant-Governor should, I think, proceed to Malé, make inquiry before the Sultan arrives, give good advice, and then leave for Colombo, or remain as a mere onlooker while the Sultan takes his own measures for his reinstatement.

Active disorder should however be checked, and this can be done by warning those concerned that it will not be allowed, and holding the leaders personally responsible, arresting them if necessary. Should the Sultan agree to the conditions in question, and should the Lieutenant-Governor's inquiry absolve him from any misbehaviour which would justify his deposition, then all moral assistance possible should be given to him. Whether physical assistance should be given depends on circumstances. If there is violence, then personal protection should be offered to the Sultan so far as the Commander of the "Highflyer" may consider to be advisable from his point of view. Whether violence should be met by force with a view of replacing the Sultan in power is another question. That there should be resistance so great and determined as not to yield to the advice of the Lieutenant-Governor or as not to be overawed by the presence of the "Highflyer" is most improbable, but if by any chance it does arise, then it proves that there must be a general determination on the part of the people not to have the Sultan back; and under these circumstances if we forced him upon them, we could not leave him without support, but should have to maintain him in power. This would be a most undesirable responsibility, and in such an improbable contingency the best thing the Sultan could do would be to return to Ceylon. The *de facto* ruler would no doubt pay him an allowance. In short, it should be understood by the Sultan that the object of the Lieutenant-Governor's deputation is not necessarily to reinstate him, but to make inquiry, and it should be explained that the Lieutenant-Governor's action will depend on the results of that inquiry.

I should be inclined—but the Lieutenant-Governor will exercise his discretion—on arrival to send for the Regent and ascertain from him the state of affairs. If the Regent is not allowed to come, I would visit him under proper escort, more with a view of impressing the people than for the purpose of protection. Then I would send for the usurper, and (the previous inquiry having had satisfactory results) warn him that he must on the arrival of the Sultan submit and beg for forgiveness, otherwise (or perhaps in any case) the Sultan should be advised to exile him. He and others doomed to the same fate might return in the steamer which brings the Sultan to Malé. But the Sultan must make arrangements at his own expense for their subsistence in Ceylon or to whatever other place they may be deported. The Lascars, who form the Prætorian Guard, should also be dealt with. The Commandant and other officers appear to have been traitors. If so, the Sultan might be encouraged to exile them. *Eventually* it may be desirable to disband the whole Guard.

The condition of the finances should be carefully examined, and also the existence of any undesirable monopolies and concessions injurious to trade.

Finally, the Sultan should be warned that if he cannot maintain himself in power, once that we have replaced him there, he must not expect further assistance from us.

A good honest interpreter is very necessary, and if one cannot be found, then two interpreters representing the rival parties, and consequently watching each other, will be the next best. A clerk who understands accounts will also be necessary.

I recommend the Lieutenant-Governor to read Mr. Taylor's report of his visit to the Maldives.

No. 78.

Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. WEST RIDGEWAY, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., to
the Hon. Mr. E. F. im Thurn, C.B., C.M.G.

THESE letters* make the position clearer. Definite charges have been brought against the Sultan, and the Lieutenant-Governor will inquire into their truth. If they are substantiated, and if the Lieutenant-Governor finds that the people are strongly opposed to the reinstatement of the Sultan, then I do not think that we should be justified in forcing him upon them. In that case it would be best to make some arrangement according to which the Sultan might receive some suitable allowance from the new Government. Reasonable debts contracted by him when Sultan should be met by the State.

Possibly the charges are not true; there may be no general opposition to his reinstatement. In this case it may be desirable that he should exile the usurper. But there should be a careful inquiry into the financial situation, and the Sultan should give guarantees that he will restrict his own expenditure within reasonable limits. In short, there should be a Civil List and a Public Treasury.

Inquiry should be made as to the monopolies and concessions which have been made by the Sultan, and the question whether they should be accepted by us reserved for consideration.

I fear that the inquiry into, and the settlement of, these questions will take at least a week, and even then it may be necessary to leave behind Mr. Scott or some other officer to see the settlement worked into effect. If so, arrangements might be made with Mr. Noorbhai for the detention of his steamer.

If the usurper is recognized, it should be distinctly understood that he is recognized not because of his supposed superior hereditary claims, but because the present Sultan has by maladministration forfeited the allegiance of his people.

May 13, 1903.

WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 79.

The Hon. Mr. E. F. im Thurn, C.B., C.M.G., to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

Colombo, May 21, 1903.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—IN submitting the attached general account of our recent visit to the Maldives there are a few special conclusions and recommendations which I should like to put before you.

By the agreement of 1887 between the Maldivian and the Ceylon Governments, it was arranged that the recognition by the Governor of Ceylon should be necessary to the full institution of each new Sultan of the Maldives. But the Ceylon Government undoubtedly desires to act in this in conformity with Maldivian law and custom. Such custom, as far as the succession to the Sultanate is concerned, seems certainly to be that a dying Sultan nominates his successor, that such a nominee has to be approved also by the Ministers acting for the people, and that it is only after these stages that the nominee would be submitted for recognition by the Governor of Ceylon. I am, however, also satisfied that it is good custom that where the nominee is under age a Regent may be appointed by the Ministers, and should be approved by the Ceylon Government.

The course of events which immediately followed the death of the Sultan Nur-ud-din in 1892 seems to have been as follows:—Sams-ud-din, the son of the Nur-ud-din, was probably nominated by his father, and was at any rate accepted by the Ministers as the lawful heir. He was, however, under age, and consequently his cousin Imad-ud-din was according to custom put in as temporary Regent. Imad-ud-din, according to custom, announced to Ceylon his appointment; but, whether intentionally or unintentionally, left it doubtful whether he was to be regarded as temporary Regent or permanent Sovereign. The Ceylon Government failed to realize the nicety of the point, and, assuming that Imad-ud-din was intended to be actually and permanently Sultan, formally recognized him as such.

The Maldivians, never realizing that Imad-ud-din was more than Regent during the minority of Sams-ud-din, in 1897, 1899, and again in 1900, urged in one way and another that Imad-ud-din should at last give place to Sams-ud-din. On each of these occasions the Ceylon Government, still failing to realize the true constitutional position of Imad-ud-din, upheld him as actual Sultan.

There can however, I think, be little doubt that according to Maldivian custom Sams-ud-din is the rightful heir; and it is for us to consider whether we should retreat from the false position into which we have inadvertently stepped and should at last recognize Sams-ud-din, or whether we should insist on maintaining Imad-ud-din on the throne.

Fortunately, however, recent circumstances have given us a good reason for acknowledging the rightful heir without entering into too elaborate explanations of the mistake under which we have so long withheld from him that recognition.

The absence of Imad-ud-din in Egypt gave Sams-ud-din, who was undoubtedly acting in this in complete accord with almost all the Ministers and the Maldivian people, an opportunity to take possession of the palace and the power.

The Maldivians say that a Sultan only continues to reign over them so long as he is in accord with the views of his Ministers; and whether this constitutional point can or cannot be maintained, it seems to me at least certain that the Maldivian party, who are practically unanimous in this, have sufficient grounds for removing Imad-ud-din from the Regency in the acts of maladministration which they allege against Imad-ud-din.

These alleged acts are, according to them, of three classes: (1) squandering of the public revenue; (2) relinquishment of all real power to his brothers-in-law, and more especially to the foreign adventurer Dadabhoj; and (3) cruelty to his Maldivian subjects. As regards this last point, I find no evidence. It is possible, and even probable, that Dadabhoj and the brothers-in-law were harsh in their methods of extracting contributions from the Maldivians, but I greatly doubt whether any charge of personal cruelty will lie against Imad-ud-din himself. The charge of squandering the revenue is much more fully made out in many passages of the annexed general report. As to the

* See Nos. 78, 74, and 37.

remaining charge, I think there can be absolutely no doubt that most of the recent troubles in the Maldives have been almost entirely due to the fact that all real power has been allowed to fall into the hands of Dadabhoy and the Sultan Imad-ud-din's brothers-in-law.

But after all the strongest ground for appeal to Your Excellency for reconsideration of the decision not to recognize Sams-ud-din lies in the almost complete unanimity with which the Maldivians urge it. This unanimity may, I believe, easily be made even greater than it is. Two of Sams-ud-din's principal supporters are Abdulla Didi, who is the brother of Ibrahim Didi, and Ahamed Didi, who is the son of Ibrahim Didi. I need hardly remind you that Ibrahim Didi is the former Prime Minister of the Sultan Imad-ud-din, but has now been living in exile for some years in Ceylon. His two relatives, whom I have just named, are well disposed towards the Sultan Sams-ud-din, and are trusted by him. Indeed, there seems to be a growing friendly feeling between the Maldivians under Sams-ud-din, including Mohammed Didi on the one side and Ibrahim Didi on the other. The Maldivians seem to realize that Ibrahim Didi is the cleverest of their nation; that, though he formerly was somewhat too advanced in his views, he has by his banishment paid for this; and that there is now no reason why he should not return, so far as he wishes to do so, to Malé. Even Mohammed Didi, the rival Prime Minister, would, I believe, be in favour of this. A very strong and united Maldivian party would thus be formed, and one which would be entirely in our interests.

Finally, as to the disposal of Imad-ud-din, I am quite satisfied that the Maldivians will give to him the allowance and entertainment which according to Maldivian custom is his due as a Royal Prince; and I think the fact that he has recently prepared for himself a large and rather splendid private house in Malé strongly points to the fact that he has foreseen the time coming for his retirement into private life.

EVERARD IM THURN.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 79.

REPORT on my Visit to Malé in the Maldivian Islands in H.M.S. Highflyer.

I LEFT Colombo in H.M.S. Highflyer at 3 P.M. on Thursday, May 14. After we were on board and the anchor already partly raised I was handed a letter, which I attach, from Sultan Imad-ud-din, in which he gives a list of the Maldivians whom he thinks still loyal to him, about ten in number, also a list of those whom he considers the chief rebels, sixteen in number, and he suggests, first, that we should deport these rebels, in which case he believes the people will come back to him; and secondly, that the Ceylon Government should supply him with about two dozen European police officers as a bodyguard, he paying their expenses. This latter suggestion, which is hardly worth even consideration, is important as indicating the Sultan's belief, of which he has already given many other indications, that he cannot without our forcible assistance keep himself on the throne, even if we put him back.

At daybreak on Saturday, 16th May, we were in sight of some of the Maldivian atolls to the north of Malé, and running south we passed between 8 and 9 A.M. into the Malé Atoll by the channel to the north of the Island of the same name, and came to anchor opposite the town. This channel is considerably longer and no safer than the channel to the south of the Island, by which we eventually passed out of the atoll. The facts are not quite accurately shown on the charts, but Captain Christian proposes to report on this to the Admiral.

Very soon after we had come to anchor a boatload of Maldivian officials came alongside, but I refused to see any of them until I had made my own arrangements. I at once sent the Mudaliyars Barr and Buksh on shore to summon Dorre Manippul, the brother of the Sultan Imad-ud-din, and the man who had been left as Regent when the Sultan started for Egypt, and also Mohammed Didi, the well-known so-called Prime Minister.

As far as I can make out no title corresponding to that of Prime Minister is recognized in Maldivian affairs, and the term appears to be one which we ourselves have introduced, and have applied to that official who at the moment happened to exercise the greatest sway. Ibrahim Didi and Mohammed Didi, who each in turn have figured as Prime Minister, have I believe only been each in turn the official exercising at the moment the most important influence in Maldivian affairs generally.

There seems to have been some little difficulty in arranging for the Regent Dorre Manippul to come out to see me. But he and Mohammed Didi eventually arrived together not very long after the hour I had appointed, which was 10.30 A.M.

With Captain Christian in the Admiral's cabin on the "Highflyer" I first interviewed the *ex-Regent*. He made an impression far from favourable upon us. He is a miserable-looking man, apparently absolutely devoid of initiative. He told me that he had been to Mecca with his brother, the Sultan Imad-ud-din, but was left at Malé as Regent when Imad-ud-din started for Egypt. He was appointed Regent in the presence of all the principal men except Sams-ud-din, who hardly came out of his own private house at that period. The Regent said that after Imad-ud-din's departure he lived partly in the palace and partly in his own house; that things went on smoothly until the night of 11th March when, he (the Regent) being away from the palace, Sams-ud-din walked in and proclaimed himself Sultan. Since that period the Regent said that he had been living in his own house, but was allowed to go freely about to visit his relations, and was given the usual subsistence allowance of a Royal Prince, and he admitted that the only way in which he had suffered any hardship at the hands of the ascendant party was that he had, as he more than once put it, "lost his respect." He said that he would not be allowed to leave the Island, and would not be allowed to go about within the Island with any following of men. As regards the officials who had been under him as Regent, he could not say that any of them had been ill-treated, but had heard that two of them were in confinement at the palace. It afterwards appeared that these two, thus supposed to be in confinement, were the only two of the adherents of Imad-ud-din who had been banished from the Island.

I asked the Regent what would happen if the Sultan Imad-ud-din came back. He replied that if he came back in a man-of-war the Maldivians would allow him to land, but otherwise they would not, and that the people would not allow him to remain on the throne unless the British Government

kept him there by force. He added, however, that the people would never have sided against Imad-ud-din if people had not come from Colombo (and he especially mentioned Ahmed Didi, son of Ibrahim Didi) and stirred them up to take sides with Sams-ud-din. He said that, besides himself, the only people now on the Island who would side with Imad-ud-din were Mohammed Didi and Dorre Hakara Manik-fan. All the others had been banished.

I asked, with reference to the complaints which had been made against Imad-ud-din, what money or treasure Imad-ud-din had taken when he started for Egypt. He said that he had taken Rs. 20,000 in gold and silver, and a very large lump of ambergris, which had been found just before that time. He said that ambergris was worth Rs. 20 for each rupee weight of the stuff, and that any ambergris that was found was regarded as the property of the Sultan, the finder being only rewarded by a present of three waistcloths and one handkerchief. I shall enter into further details as to the Sultan's rights over treasure which might be considered to be the property of the State. He also told me that the ordinary monetary allowance to the Sultan was Rs. 550 a month, but that in addition to this he got support in kind to any necessary extent.

Asked about what became of the Customs money—in other words, of the principal revenue of the State—he said it was always taken straight from the Custom House to the palace and deposited in a separate room, the keys of which were generally kept by four officials, who acted as Treasurers. Latterly, however, in Imad-ud-din's time, the keys had been kept only by Tuttu Ali Didi, the brother-in-law of Imad-ud-din. The Regent said that after Imad-ud-din had taken the Rs. 20,000 for his Egyptian journey there was another Rs. 20,000 left in the Treasury. He afterwards, however, corrected this to Rs. 10,000. He said that there never had been jewellery or treasure of much value in the Treasury, but only quite a little. He did not know that Imad-ud-din had taken away any jewellery with him. He had not sent any more money from the Treasury to Imad-ud-din in Egypt, but he had sent Hakara Manik-fan to Colombo to borrow Rs. 20,000 under a power of attorney which he held from Imad-ud-din, and this money had been sent to Imad-ud-din in Egypt.

Finally, I asked him about the alleged flogging of Maldivians after their return from trading in Ceylon. He did not deny the fact, but said it was the custom of the country. It is perhaps worth noting here that the man whom the Ceylon Government employs in Colombo as Maldivian Interpreter appears to make up for the fact that he gets no pay from us by extortion from Maldivian traders, which he enforces by reporting to the Maldives such of these traders as will not submit to extortion, with the result that they are flogged on their return home.

After dismissing the Regent we next interviewed Mohammed Didi, the so-called Prime Minister, but whose real office appears to be Commander-in-Chief, or Ramia Bandari Kalik-fan. Mohammed Didi said that he had held the same office under Imad-ud-din, and consented to stop on at the special request of Sams-ud-din. In the frankest possible way he said that he did not much mind who was Sultan, as long as he himself remained in power, because his one wish was to prevent bloodshed. He had no ill-feeling towards Imad-ud-din, whose personal appearance and qualities tended to make him a good Sultan, but in his reigning capacity Imad-ud-din was quite inefficient, and had latterly entrusted the whole power to his brother-in-law, Tuttu Ali Didi, Hakara Manik-fan and to Dadabhoi. He said that it was impossible that Imad-ud-din could regain the throne, but if he would live quietly and not trouble the Sultan Sams-ud-din, the Ministers would see that he got support adequate to his position as an *ex-Sultan*. Mohammed Didi further said that if the British Government put Imad-ud-din back in the palace the Maldivians could not prevent it, and he did not think that they would make any disorder; they would certainly do no murder, but might inflict grievous injury; and it was quite certain that they would not recognize Imad-ud-din as Sultan. The Lascorreen Guards were entirely in favour of the Sultan Sams-ud-din, and had sided with nearly all the high officials of the Island in putting Sams-ud-din in power.

This closed my private interview with Mohammed Didi. He appears to me to be a good-natured fellow, with considerable common sense, but quite simple and without craft or cleverness enough to intrigue.

After the close of these interviews with the Regent and Mohammed Didi I sent word to the Sultan Sams-ud-din that we would land at 4 P.M., and would expect to be received by him at the palace.

At 4 o'clock I went on shore with Captain Christian and several of his officers, but without a guard, and was received at the jetty by a procession of all the Ministers, a selection of the Lascorreen Guard, and some tom-tom beaters. We went up to the palace, which is a building of a better kind and much more substantial than I had expected, and were received by Sams-ud-din.

The usurper is a considerably younger man than the Sultan Imad-ud-din, and impressed me much more favourably. He replied very briefly to my questions and did not speak much, but whatever he did say seemed to be on his own initiative and not to be prompted by his Ministers or any reigning favourite. In this he differs greatly from Imad-ud-din.

He admitted that he had taken the opportunity of Imad-ud-din's absence to turn out the Regent and take possession of the throne. But he asserted, as he has done all along, that he himself is the rightful heir to the throne, and that all the Ministers and all the chief men of the place went with him and supported him in taking possession, and that, even if the recognition by the British Government of Imad-ud-din as Sultan had been obtained without fraud, it was certain that Imad-ud-din's maladministration and cruelty to the people had forfeited his right to continue on the throne. Sams-ud-din said that he did not wish himself to talk of the offences of Imad-ud-din, who was his uncle's son, but that the Ministers would tell me all about it. He made a great point of having done all with the free co-operation of the Ministers and the people. He fully admitted that the recognition of Imad-ud-din by the British Government was a hard thing for the Maldivians to get over, and was sure that the British Government, if it inquired into and ascertained the facts as to Imad-ud-din's maladministration and as to the feelings of the people towards him, would no longer continue to support the late Sultan. I asked him to name the complaints against Imad-ud-din. He said, first, squandering of the hoarded revenue of the State; secondly, raising money on the credit of the State during his absence from the Maldives by giving power of attorney, which he had no right to give without the co-operation of the Ministers; and thirdly, his handing himself over, body and soul, to his brothers-in-law and to Dadabhoi. This latter offence, he said, had by itself so displeased the Maldivians that they would never again accept Imad-ud-din as Sultan. I then asked what he thought would happen if we put Imad-ud-din back into the palace, to which he replied that he did

not suppose that the people would resist, but that they certainly would not recognize as Sultan the man in the palace. In reply to further questions he assured me, however, that if Imad-ud-din came back to live at Malé or remained in Ceylon, not as Sultan but as a Royal Prince, he would receive from the State the allowance and support due to that rank. I then spoke of certain debts which Imad-ud-din while Sultan had incurred, the responsibility for which, I said, I thought the State should take over. Sams-ud-din inquired what these debts were, and whether, if Imad-ud-din should say that he owed large sums to his brother-in-law or to Dadabhoy, I meant that the State should accept that sort of liability. I said "no," but that I knew that Imad-ud-din had, for instance, borrowed money to bring him back from Suez to Colombo and on to Malé, and that that debt, which was incurred while he was still Sultan, should be paid by the State. Hereupon Sams-ud-din for almost the only time during that interview consulted his Ministers, and with their assent promised that this debt should be paid, and that they would look into the accounts of any other debts and arrange to pay such as were justly due. Finally, I said that I wished to speak on Monday to as many of the people of Malé and the surrounding islands as could be got together, and that I especially wanted to see the Lascoreens. Sams-ud-din promised that all should be called together. The interview then closed.

Captain Christian and I used the rest of that and each other afternoon in wandering about the town, always accompanied by a great crowd of most courteous people, who never tired of answering the innumerable questions we asked of them. And in this way we elicited a good deal of information, not only as to the general state of the place, but more especially as to their feelings about the authorities over them.

The town of Malé occupies practically the whole island, which is rather less than one square mile in extent; it is surrounded by an elaborate wall of coral stone,—built, we were assured, "when Malé was at war with all the other nations," before the British took Ceylon—and manned by innumerable old guns. The streets are laid out more or less at right angles, are wide and uniform, and run between compounds, each of which is secluded within a cadjan fence, and is so thickly planted with cocoanut and other fruit and flowering trees that the whole island, as seen from the sea, looks like an uninhabited jungle, except just by the landing-place, where the Sultan's palace towers up behind the fort wall, and where also, just outside these walls, there is a thick outcrop of tin-roofed boutiques kept by Bombay and other merchants.

Away from the boutiques and within the residential part of the town the whole place is kept in order, which might give a lesson to many much more civilized places. The streets are as tidy as could well be, and evil smells are apparently quite unknown. A few of the houses, those of the Ministers and upper classes, are substantial and good in an Eastern sort of way, and it is significant that the houses of the Court favourites of the Sultan Imad-ud-din, and perhaps most especially the private house of Imad-ud-din himself, are even luxurious beyond all the others.

Mosques with much really good carved work in coral stone and with some good fretted metal work abound, and (a less satisfactory feature) so do graveyards and tombstones, which crop out almost as abundantly as cannon all over the place.

The water supply is provided partly by catching rain water in large chatties, partly by stone-lined holes—they are not wells—in the gardens and streets, and partly, curiously enough, by the importation of water from Colombo.

The next day, Sunday, we spent partly in cruising about among the coral reefs and partly in again wandering about in Malé.

On Sunday night and Monday morning a great many characteristic Maldivian boats, with curiously interesting mat sails, came in from the surrounding islands. On Monday morning I did some diving on the coral reefs and received a few visitors from the shore, and in the afternoon a great gathering was held in the large grass courtyard within the fort and immediately under the palace.

A guard of 100 marines and bluejackets from the "Highflyer" with their band was landed and lined one side of the ground; the other side was lined by the Lascoreen Guard, which means practically the whole male population of Malé Island, and by the men from the outer islands. Boys and even a few women were ranged on the old walls round the courtyard, and the high tower of the palace was filled by the female attendants of the Sultan's harem.

When Captain Christian and I landed, after all these arrangements had been made, we crossed the ground from the direction of the sea, received the salute, and passed on to the big-roofed gateway which leads into the palace premises. Here we were met by the Sultan Sams-ud-din in a gorgeous robe of green satin with gold embroidery, with two Eastern umbrellas, and by the late Regent Dorre Manippul, with one umbrella, supplied by Messrs. Cargills, and conspicuously guaranteed to last for two years, and also by a large crowd of all the principal inhabitants of the place. Here we stood and conferred for about an hour and a half.

In the first place, I asked the *ex-Regent* to point out to me some who might be regarded as the adherents of Imad-ud-din, and might be expected to speak for him. But Dorre Manippul could not produce one to stand by him. I led him formally along the whole line of Lascoreens and of other natives, and used some entreaty to those who might be Imad-ud-din's men to declare themselves. But the result was either dead silence or a suppressed shout for Sams-ud-din. We returned to the gateway and through the Interpreter pressed the Regent to name the men of his party, even though they might not be present; and we counted up this party, and found that, including the Regent, it numbered but five.

I then had a long talk with the leaders of the people generally, the Sultan Sams-ud-din standing by, but intervening hardly at all. The first point on which I sought and obtained an expression of opinion was the real constitutional position of Imad-ud-din in the opinion of the natives. In the result they said, and I have no doubt that they spoke truly, that Imad-ud-din was originally appointed by the Ministers to be only Regent during the minority of him whom they regarded as the rightful heir, that is to say, Sams-ud-din; and that it was only the unexpected recognition of Imad-ud-din by the Ceylon Government as actual Sultan, not merely as temporary Regent, that kept Sams-ud-din from possessing the throne which was really and legally his.

(I am by no means certain that Imad-ud-din himself, in his letter of 3rd August, 1893, did not intend honestly to announce himself merely as temporary Regent, and that he was not as much surprised as any one to find himself acknowledged as actual Sultan.)

Why then, I then asked, was the recognition of Imad-ud-din as actual Sultan acquiesced in by the people? The answer—and it is an answer which was given me on several occasions and in different connections—was that the Maldivians were bound by the decision of the British Government.

Why then, I next asked, did they take advantage of the absence of Imad-ud-din to oust him and put in Sams-ud-din? They were unanimous that it was because of Imad-ud-din's maladministration. I asked for details, and they replied by quoting the offences which I was by that time almost tired of hearing alleged against Imad-ud-din—extravagance, favouritism to his own relations and to Dadabhoy, the power of attorney absolutely unconstitutionally given, cruelty, and so on. They, however, now in some cases gave me greater details than before. Their account of the depletion of the Treasury, not only of money but of jewellery, on the departure of Imad-ud-din to Mecca and Egypt agreed fairly well with that which had been given me by the *ex-Regent*, except that the Ministers declared that there had been taken away much more in the shape of jewellery than the *ex-Regent* had admitted. The story of the ambergris, with the difference that it should have been the property of the State, but was used by Imad-ud-din for his own private purposes, came practically in the same words from the Ministers as it had from the *ex-Regent*. The Ministers, however, now gave me details of two of Imad-ud-din's alleged misdeeds, of which I had before heard only vaguely. One of these concerned the Island of Maduwari, 120 miles from Malé, the revenues of which are said always to have been assigned for the maintenance of the Mohammedan religion, until Imad-ud-din recently seized upon them and delivered them over to Dadabhoy. The other was as to a breakwater at Malé, for which Imad-ud-din levied contributions said to have amounted in all to between nine and ten thousand rupees, which contributions he had spent on his own purposes.

It being by this time evident that there was practically absolute unanimity against the return of Imad-ud-din as Sultan, I pointed to the gateway leading from the courtyard to the harbour, and asked what they would do if Imad-ud-din, as was quite possible, came in at that moment, and with the bluejackets and marines behind him marched into the palace and was put in possession there and Sams-ud-din turned out. They replied, as before, that if Imad-ud-din was put in by the British Government, that which must be, must be. They declined to enter into explanations as to what would happen after we and the bluejackets had gone, except that for the sake of politeness, they rather indicated that there might possibly be no disturbance.

I then entered once more, but with the whole crowd this time, into the question of what they would do for Imad-ud-din if—and I laid stress on the fact that it was yet but a possibility—the Ceylon Government consented to acquiesce in their adoption of Sams-ud-din as Sultan. They asked a good many questions, but they never really wavered from the position that if Imad-ud-din, when deposed, did not make mischief in the State and did not cause trouble to the reigning Sultan they would give him the support of a Royal Prince. I asked if they would do this whether Imad-ud-din lived in Malé or at Colombo, and they said "yes." I told them that I had heard that Imad-ud-din had taken an Egyptian lady as his wife, at which there was an outburst of ejaculation. "God knows," they cried, "we have not yet seen her."

(I may here mention that later in the evening, during our stroll through the town, I was assured by several of the Ministers attending us that Imad-ud-din had spent a lac of rupees on this wedding, and that he had contracted with his wife not to bring her to Malé, but to buy a house for her at Colombo at a cost of Rs. 50,000, and to support her there as the Sultana of the Maldives. I could not ascertain that this local view of the contract was founded on anything better than hearsay, but from something which came to my eyes just before I left Colombo I shall not be surprised to find that it is substantially correct.)

I finally closed the long palaver by declaring that it was not for me to recognize either Imad-ud-din or Sams-ud-din as Sultan, that I had come only to inquire, and that I should now return to Ceylon and tell the Governor the views of the Maldivian people, which, as I understood, were that though they were prepared to acquiesce in his decision they all with one accord wished him now to put Sams-ud-din on the Sultan's throne. I turned to Sams-ud-din and, after causing this last statement to be carefully interpreted to him, told him that he and his Ministers had written various letters to the Governor asking for his recognition of the new state of things, that I knew that these letters had not been definitely answered, that the Governor had not answered them because he wished first to ascertain the wishes of the Maldivian people, but that I had no doubt that they would now soon receive a full and final answer to their request. I also told them all that it had been arranged that the Sultan Imad-ud-din should arrive at Malé soon after the arrival of the "Highflyer," that as they saw Imad-ud-din had not put in an appearance, that I did not know the reason for this, that we should leave for Colombo early next morning, that we might meet him on the way, in which case I should certainly speak to him and tell him what I had done at Malé, or that I might not meet him until we reached Colombo, but that in any case, if Imad-ud-din arrived now, or at any other time at Malé, they were to remember their promise to me, and were to treat him courteously and as a member of the Royal Family. Once again they promised to do this.

With my party I then marched off the ground taking a formal salute from the bluejackets and marines, and walked slowly down the long line of natives who had come together from the whole of the Malé Atoll. As we passed down the line they all raised their arms over their heads and cried out the name of Sams-ud-din. The guard then returned to the ship, and Captain Christian and I took our usual evening walk round Malé.

The chief difficulty which now presented itself to us was what to do in view of the fact that the Sultan Imad-ud-din had not put in an appearance. He was to have left Colombo in the *ss. Ileafee* about fifteen hours after our departure. This had been arranged under the idea that he would thus reach Malé about twenty-four hours after us, and after we had time to prepare the people for his arrival. A very short conversation with Captain Christian as to the relative speeds of the "Highflyer" and the "Ileafee" showed me there had been a serious miscalculation. Still the "Ileafee" should have arrived on Sunday evening, or at latest on Monday morning, but there was as yet no sign of her. On the other hand, the Admiral had been very insistent that the "Highflyer" should be back at Trincomalee by Thursday, the 21st May, and this could only be done by the ship's leaving Malé that same Monday evening. Under the circumstances, however, Captain Christian kindly consented to wait till Tuesday morning, and undertook, in case the "Ileafee" was sighted by 8 A.M., to wait still longer, until I had an opportunity of an adequate interview with Imad-ud-din.

But on Tuesday morning there was still no sign of the "Ileafee," and at 8 A.M. the anchor of the "Highfyer" was hoisted and we steamed out of the atoll and started for Colombo. The Captain kindly undertook to keep a man at the masthead on the lookout for the "Ileafee" and if we sighted her that I should have an opportunity of going on board. We, however, never sighted her.

Before we left Malé the morning of the 19th May the Ministers paid us a final visit of a very friendly nature. They brought with them presents of fresh meat and other stores for the ship, which were accepted. They also brought a considerable number of presents from Sams-ud-din for myself. But these I rejected with as little offence as possible.

I took the opportunity of leaving a letter in Tamil for Imad-ud-din should he still arrive. The Ministers with whom I left it satisfied me that they would deliver it, and assured me of their own accord that Sams-ud-din, since my palaver of the previous day, had given them all instructions to go on board to receive Imad-ud-din, if he arrived, with all courtesy and to conduct him to his own house. I am satisfied that we left matters in such train that Imad-ud-din, if he returns to Malé, will be allowed free access to his house and property, and will be properly treated. I could not help feeling that it was a pity that Imad-ud-din had not arrived while we were there, but it was quite clear to me that no good would be effected by any of us remaining there longer.

During our stay at Malé Mr. Joseph, the Audit Office Clerk whom I took with me, lived on shore. The Government Maldivian Interpreter, whom I brought from Colombo, I did not allow on shore, except in my own company, as by his own account and that of the Maldivians he is so hated because of his dealings with Maldivians visiting Ceylon that he is not safe in his own country. I strongly recommend that, if possible, some new means of effecting such interpretations of the Maldivian language as we may require should be arranged.

From the conversation of the people with the Mudaliyars on shore and with ourselves during our walks in Malé I picked up a good deal of information of a valuable kind.

As regards Mr. Joseph, such official books and accounts as exist were, by order of Sams-ud-din, freely put at his disposal. It appears, however, that no books as regards transactions previous to the recent *coup d'état* by Sams-ud-din exist, and except that Imad-ud-din is alleged to know what became of them, we procured no information as to them. Mr. Joseph's report is attached. In the main it corroborates various statements which had been made to me by Sams-ud-din and his Ministers, and also the few facts of a financial character which I had been able to extract from the late Regent Dorre Mauippul. A list of the Ministers and leading men, drawn up by Barr Mudaliyar, is appended to Mr. Joseph's report. A note by Barr Mudaliyar is also attached.

I also attach, with Captain Christian's consent, a copy of a very excellent report on the general state of Malé, drawn up for Admiralty intelligence purposes by Lieut.-Colonel Willis in command of the Marines on the "Highfyer."

May 20, 1903.

EVERARD DE THURN.

Sub-Enclosure No. 1 in Enclosure No. 1 in No. 79.

His Highness the Sultan of the Maldive Islands to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

Colombo, May 14, 1903.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to send herewith for Your Excellency's information, as arranged by me at our interview on the 12th instant, the names of such of my Ministers and officers who have been banished by the usurper on account of their loyalty to me. They are as follows:—

- (1) Naib Tutu, Chief Justice.
- (2) Ahmed Didi Hakra Manik-fan.
- (3) Dhara Takra-fan.
- (4) Fandi Takra-fan.
- (5) Marjan Mohammed Kalig-fan.
- (6) Takandu Isafulu.
- (7) Mandu Edru Dommaniku.
- (8) Ramfulu Husein Manikku.
- (9) Kalu Ali Husein Manikku.
- (10) Tulusdu Don Mohammadu.

The following are the names of some of the leading rebels, among whom are comprised some of my old Ministers and officers:—

- (1) Hassan Didi, Velana Manik-fan, who is the prime mover of the revolt.
- (2) Mohammed Didi, son of the above said.
- (3) Mafat Takra-fan.
- (4) Mafat Kilega-fan.
- (5) Kateeb Sidi.
- (6) Abdul Majid, son of Ibrahim Didi.
- (7) Galorge Mohammed Didi, brother of Ibrahim Didi.
- (8) Butcha Don Tutu.
- (9) Kondikoya.
- (10) Modi Kalig-fan Dom Manniku.
- (11) Tutu Futu.

Besides the above, there are about five or six men who had been banished by me some years ago who have been recalled by the usurper. Their names are as follows:—

- (1) Ahmed Didi, son of Ibrahim Didi.
- (2) Abdulla Didi, brother of Ibrahim Didi.
- (3) Numara Gandvar Manipulu.
- (4) Don Manikkuge Ismail Didi.
- (5) Don Sikka Didi.

In this connection I may mention that it is desirable for me to have a bodyguard consisting of about two dozen European police officers. I should be most grateful to His Excellency the Governor if he would let me have the above number of men from the Ceylon Police Force, and keep them with me till order is restored. The expenses of the bodyguard and their salaries will of course be paid by me. This matter, however, I must leave to His Excellency's discretion.

I have heard from Malé, per ss. Violet, which arrived yesterday, that the people are frightened into submission by the terror of the rebel Ministers and Officers, about a dozen of them, and if they are removed from the scene the whole population will come to greet me.

Mohammed Didi, my late Prime Minister, and Ismail Didi, also my Minister, have written to me a letter, which I beg to enclose herewith for your information, and as I have no time to send a translation of it, Your Excellency may have it translated for your information. They promise their allegiance to me with several others in that letter.

I have, &c.,
 MUHAMMAD IMAD-UD-DIN,
 Sultan of the Maldives.

Sub-Enclosure No. 2 in Enclosure No. 1 in No. 79.

The Hon. the Lieutenant-Governor to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives.

Copy of Letter dated May 19, 1903, left at Malé for the Sultan Imad-ud-din.

WITH all greetings to Your Highness, I have to inform you that after due inquiry at Malé at a general assembly of the people I have satisfied myself that the Maldivian people with one voice refuse any longer to recognize Your Highness as their Sultan, though they promise that they will provide you with the support to which as a Prince of the Sultan's family you are entitled.

I have waited at Malé until this morning in the hope of your arrival, but as it is impossible to detain the Admiral's flagship the "Highflyer" longer, I leave this letter to advise you to return for a short time to Colombo.

EVERARD IM THURN,
 Lieutenant-Governor of Ceylon.

Sub-Enclosure No. 3 in Enclosure No. 1 in No. 79.

Mr. J. Joseph to the Hon. the Lieutenant-Governor.

As instructed by the Lieutenant-Governor I called upon the Prime Minister Mohammed Didi, who directed the other Ministers to place the necessary books at my disposal and render me all assistance. I accordingly visited the Kachcheri in company with the Mudaliyars and gleaned the following information.

The revenue from all sources both in cash and kind is collected at the Kachcheri, which is presided over by four officers, who take turns. The revenue received in cash is chiefly made up of export duties and rents, of which a careful and detailed account is kept. The receipts in kind, which are solely on account of import duties, supply the needs of the Royal Household as well as of the people dependent on the Government, any surplus in such receipts being bartered for other articles of provisions, which also go to supply the needs of the Royal Household as well as of the people dependent on the Government, and any deficiency supplied out of public funds. I was given to understand that for some years past there was always a deficiency, and instead of such deficiency being supplied from public funds, the necessary expenditure has been met by running into debt to the Bombay merchants. The following is a statement of the debts furnished to me. These debts, I was informed, accumulated during the ten years of Muhammad Imad-ud-din's reign:—

				Rs. Ans.
Allibhoy Essajee (Carimjee Jafferjee)	...	...	...	61,768 5
Musabbhoy Hibatulla Bhoy	...	...	...	36,597 12
Tayib Ali Jevunjee Noorbhai	...	...	...	390 0
			Total ...	97,756 1

A statement of the receipts on account of Customs duties for the same period, which was also furnished me, is subjoined for information:—

				Rs. Ans.
Customs duties	...	...	...	594,540 1
Rent	...	...	...	57,267 4
			Total ...	651,807 5

The foregoing statement of debt does not include the debts incurred in Colombo, the amount of which is not known to any of the officers at the Kachcheri.

The cash received at the Kachcheri is remitted to the Treasury at the Sultan's palace to be deposited in the safes there. If any money is required for public purposes or to meet the Sultan's expenses, it has to be brought from the Treasury to the Kachcheri, where all disbursements are made and an account kept showing how the money was disposed of. An account of the receipts and disbursements of each day has to be prepared at the Kachcheri and forwarded to the Sultan. The cash is deposited and taken out of the Treasury whenever required by an officer called Failiya Manik-fan and Mahabandin Manik-fan (Keeper of the Great Seal and Treasury Key) in the presence of the Sultan and two Ministers. The keys of the safes are locked up by that officer in a box in the palace, the key of which is in his custody. Ibrahim Didi, who holds the dual office of Failiya Manik-fan (Keeper of the Great Seal) and Mahabandin Manik-fan (Keeper of the Key), questioned whether this was the practice all along, stated that shortly after the accession of Muhammad Imad-ud-din the key of the box in which the keys of the safes are deposited was removed from his charge and given over by Muhammad Imad-ud-din to his brother-in-law Tuttu Ali Didi. He further stated that he kept an account of all moneys deposited and removed from the safes during the time he was Keeper of the Key; and this statement is corroborated by Hassan Didi, Velana Manik-fan, who was during the time of Ibrahim Nur-ud-din and at present during the time of Muhammad Sams-ud-din, one of the two Ministers present at the opening of the safes. The account books kept by him during Ibrahim Nur-ud-din's time are not forthcoming, but one is kept from the date of the accession of Muhammad Sams-ud-din. Two brothers-in-law of Muhammad Imad-ud-din, who for some time

were in charge of the key, were also questioned. One of them, Ekgamage Abdulla Didi, stated that when the safes were opened nobody was present save the Sultan and himself. He remembers Muhammad Imad-ud-din having told him that one of the safes was full of money when he took charge of the Government, but that when it was examined it contained nothing. In these circumstances I did not consider it necessary to pursue the matter any further.

As regards the accounts, it was noticed that no detailed monthly statement of revenue and expenditure is kept. The books in which the accounts are kept are all in the Maldivian language, and consequently I had to take for granted the interpretation given by the Kachcheri officers of the different items entered therein. In such of the books as were available the totals are not carried forward, and if the receipts for any stated period are required the different items have to be totalled. The defects in the system at present in force were explained to the Kachcheri officers, and the books necessary to be kept suggested. As the books prior to the accession of Muhammad Sams-ud-din were not available, I proceeded to verify the transactions from the date on which he was placed on the throne, viz., the 11th Haj, which corresponds to 12th March, 1903, to the date prior to that on which I visited the Kachcheri, viz., the 18th Safar, corresponding to 17th May, 1903, and found the accounts correct.

<i>Receipts.</i>		Rs. Ans.
The receipts during this period from Customs duties and rents amounted to		13,187 11
And the income from the Islands belonging to the Government for this period and remitted to the Treasury to	... ..	425 0
	Total ...	13,612 11
<i>Expenditure.</i>		Rs. Ans.
Amount drawn upon the Treasury and expended	... ..	2,492 9
Amount expended on orders of the Sultan from cash received	... ..	3,353 10
Balance in Treasury	... ..	7,766 8
	Total ...	13,612 11

In the Customs the duties were found to be correctly recovered and the collections daily remitted to the Treasury. No merchant is at present allowed exemption from Customs duties.

I subjoin for information statements furnished me showing the cash and valuables in the Treasury:—

(1) *On the Accession of Muhammad Imad-ud-din.*

Cash	...	...	Rs.	10,942
Gold dollars (each = 5 sovereigns)	...	...	..	483
Asmahi (each = Rs. 32)	...	...	..	402
Ibrahim gold coins (each = Rs. 7)	...	...	..	2,334
Silver dollars (each = Re. 1.75)	...	...	..	9,019
Lares (copper), 120 to Re. 1	...	...	..	1,174,919

(2) *When Muhammad Sams-ud-din took over the Government.*

Cash	...	...	Rs.	2,350.2
Silver dollars (each = Re. 1.75)	...	...	..	1,325½
Ibrahim gold coins (each = Rs. 7)	...	...	..	159
Gold dollars (each = 5 sovereigns)	...	...	..	4½
Gold coins (Ibrahim)	...	...	..	15
Bangles, gold	...	...	..	1 pair
Head of chain bangles	...	...	..	1 pair
Anklelets	...	...	..	1
Gold coins (small)	...	...	Rs.	3

I was informed that the State possessed a large quantity of jewellery when Muhammad Imad-ud-din ascended the throne, but a list of this was not available.

I append for the information of the Lieutenant-Governor a list of the principal officials in the Island of Malé and the offices held by them.

I must here acknowledge my indebtedness to the Tamil Interpreter Mudaliyar, who rendered me valuable assistance in obtaining the necessary information I required to furnish the report.

H.M.S. "Highflyer," May 20, 1903.

JAS. JOSEPH.

Manipulus (and Princes).

Hassen Issudin, father of Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din II.	
Manduge Dori Manipulu	} brothers of Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din II.
Manduge Tuttu Manipulu	
Agagaudavai Manipulu	} brothers of Muhammad Sams-ud-din.
Marandugandavar Manipulu	

Kilegi-fans (House of Lords).

- (1) Ranabendin Kilegi-fan Mohammed Didi, appointed by Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din I.
- (2) Farna Kilegi-fan Abdulla Didi, appointed by Muhammad Imad-ud-din II., absent (with Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din).
- (3) Dori Mena Kilegi-fan Ibrahim Didi, appointed by Ibrahim Nur-ud-din (absent in Colombo).
- (4) Famudin Kilegi-fan (vacant for the last five or six years).
- (5) Marfai Kilegi-fan Musa, appointed by Muhammad Imad-ud-din II.
- (6) Kuda Dori Mena Kilegi-fan Ahamed Didi, son of (3), appointed by Muhammad Imad-ud-din.

Ministers (House of Commons).

The Prime Minister Mohammed Didi and—

- (1) Dori Mena Manik-fan Ismail Didi, appointed by Muhammad Imad-ud-din II.
- (2) Hakra Manik-fan Ahamed Didi (transported), appointed by Muhammad Imad-ud-din II.
- (3) Velana Manik-fan Hassan Didi, appointed by Muhammad Imad-ud-din II.
- (4) Marfai Tukinu-fan Hassan Manika, appointed by Muhammad Imad-ud-din II.
- (5) Famudin Manik-fan Dori Didi (absent, now with Sultan Mahammad Imad-ud-din II).
- (6) Dhara Takuru-fan Musa (transported), appointed by Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din II.

Other Important Officers.

Kazi or Fandiyar Manik-fan (Chief Justice) Hassan Didi succeeded Ali Didi, who died 16th May, 1903.

Khatib (Bishop) Musa Sidi appointed by Ibrahim Nur-ud-din.

Arabic Scribe Naibu Tuttu (transported), Abdul Rahiman Alim Sahib (acting) of Colombo.

Failiya Manik-fan and Mahabendin Manik-fan (Keeper of the Great Seal and the Treasury Key) Ibrahim Didi, appointed by Ibrahim Nur-ud-din.

Sub-Enclosure No. 4 in Enclosure No. 1 in No. 79.

Barr Kumarakulasinghe, Mudaliyar, to the Hon. the Lieutenant-Governor.

THE law of succession in the Maldives would appear to be the same as has been in force in Eastern countries from the earliest times. The eldest son of a reigning sovereign succeeds him. But if the eldest son has any natural defect or deformity, the one next to him becomes the rightful heir to the throne. In case the eldest son is passed over on any such ground, the claims of his son cannot be preferred to those of the eldest eligible son, if any, of the younger brother who became the ruler. (Please see Mahabharata.) It is only when a sovereign leaves no son that the people have the right of choosing his successor from among the Princes of the Royal House. Any nomination made by the last ruler then receives consideration at the hands of the chiefs and the people, as was the case in Ceylon.

It would therefore seem that Mullinge Manipulu (Muhammad Sams-ud-din) was the rightful heir to the throne on the demise of his father Ibrahim Nur-ud-din, and was regarded as such by the people, and that Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din was looked upon by them only as a Regent, holding the reins of Government during the minority of the lawful heir. This perhaps accounts for the usual ceremony of an inauguration, which generally takes place a year or two after the accession of a sovereign, not having been performed as yet in the case of Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din.

Whatever the case may be, Muhammad Imad-ud-din has not been wise or discreet as a ruler. He has always been a puppet in the hands of one man or another, or perhaps of one wife or another. During the earlier years of his rule he was in the hands of Ibrahim Didi, whose sister he married. He conferred special favours on Ibrahim Didi and Ibrahim Didi's friend Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee. But a change came over him when he married a daughter of the late Faumderi Kilegi-fan, whom he had banished on his accession and since recalled from exile. He divorced Ibrahim Didi's sister, deprived Ibrahim Didi of the property he had bestowed on him, and conferred on his (Sultan's) brother-in-law Ahamed Didi, the youngest son of Faumderi Kilegi-fan, the high office of Hakra Manik-fan, and made him practically his Chief Counsellor.

Ahamed Didi, Hakra Manik-fan, was young and inexperienced, and at the same time ambitious and unscrupulous. His first move was to get rid of Ibrahim Didi. Having got rid of him, he had Mohammed Didi sent for from Minicoy and made Prime Minister. Mohammed Didi, being more a devotee than a statesman, and being moreover of a lazy disposition, did not concern himself much with the affairs of the State. He was content to remain a mere figurehead, while Ahamed Didi, Hakra Manik-fan, became the guiding spirit. So remarkable was the influence of Ahamed Didi, Hakra Manik-fan, that Mr. Taylor, who had observed his career, remarked on more than one occasion that that young man was running the whole business.

The undue prominence given by the Sultan to Hakra Manik-fan, who was referred to in more than one letter of the Sultan to this Government as the "delight of our eyes," was the cause of much jealousy among the older and greater men and of general discontent.

That there was discontent among the Ministers before the Sultan left Malé for Mecca in December, 1900, and he feared an overthrow, is evident from the Sultan, probably on the advice of Hakra Manik-fan, getting a writing on oath from the Ministers to the effect that they would be faithful to him (the Sultan). Instead of removing the cause for discontent, the Sultan only opened the way for greater discontent.

Hakra Manik-fan's misdeeds were not the sole cause of discontent. The State funds were freely made use of by the Sultan, his brothers, and even his brothers-in-law. Shortly after the return of the Sultan, his brother, Dori Manipulu, their mother, and a number of others, who had gone on pilgrimage to Mecca, Tuttu Manipulu, another brother of the Sultan, who had been Regent during the absence of the Sultan, made a trip to Ceylon. Ahamed Didi Hakra Manik-fan, too, made an extended tour in India, visiting Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, &c.

These, with other circumstances brought to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor's notice at the inquiry at Malé, and the then intended marriage of the Sultan with an Egyptian lady, created much discontent, to the spread of which the absence of the Sultan and the want of watchfulness on the part of Dori Manipulu offered a favourable opportunity. The powers of attorney granted to Mr. Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee and Hakra Manik-fan brought matters to a crisis, and influenced the people to take the immediate action they have taken.

Sub-Enclosure No. 5 in Enclosure No. 1 in No. 79.

REPORT on the Maldive Islands by Lieutenant-Colonel Willis, R.M.L.I.

People.—By nature simple and honest, of good physique, but seldom tall. Intelligent, and with a fairly high standard of general morality. Less severe than most Mohammedans, especially as regards the treatment of their women, who lead a life of freedom until they are married. At no time do they cover their faces or hide from strangers. With dark eyes and fairly regular features, they are not unattractive while young, though a really pretty face is very rare. They have no elegance of figure, and their walk is ungraceful. They wear an uniform dress, according to ancient custom, which gives a very neat appearance. The hair is drawn on to the top of the head and held in a small turban. A tunic open at the neck, reaching to the knees, of a dark blue cotton or silk, more or less elaborately embroidered at the neck, and a *lunghi* or loin cloth of dark blue or maroon coloured fibre with two broad white stripes worn under the tunic and reaching to the ankles, constitute their costume as seen.

The men wear round the head a twisted cotton handkerchief with two corners sticking out; feet are bare; the Sultan alone can cover his feet. A *lunghi* of coloured cotton or dull coloured silk is worn, and among the nobility a cotton shirt without skirts.

Very little work is done by any one in Malé. Fine embroidery to the tunics they wear is done by the women. The recreation of the men is a game resembling "tip-cat" and single stick. Of women, swinging in their compounds, each house having three or four swings from the trees round it.

Government.—The nominal and ornamental head of the State is the Sultan, who is kept in severe retreat at the palace, with his two wives, (he is allowed three, and there is no great trouble about divorce), and his household. The Government is carried on by the Ministers on traditional lines. There are five principal Ministers termed Kilagi-fanu and five second class. They are mostly drawn from the Didi class, which is the highest order of nobility, ranking next to the Manipul or Princes. No one outside the Island of Malé has any voice in the Government, nor in the election of a Sultan. Everybody in the Island, except a few Bombay traders, is connected with Government, or is a Lascoreen in Government employ. The Sultan has a strong bodyguard, of whom we saw 600, of Lascoreens armed with spears. They have no military duties that I could ascertain, except an occasional muster. There are no police. Offenders are dealt with by the Khazi, the Kutchin, and in serious crimes, if any were to occur, by the Sultan and Ministers; the principal punishments are beating and banishment to a distant island, accompanied in extreme cases by public disgrace—the face blacked, palm leaves in place of clothing—the offender being drummed through the town.

Trading.—All trading must be done through Malé Island. Import duties are in kind: one bag of rice in twelve; other articles various proportions. This is divided up between the Sultan, Royal Household, Ministers, &c., *pro rata* more or less, as also the fee of four bags of rice from each vessel for the privilege of trading. Export duties are in cash, principally for fish, which pays Re. 1 per 100 lb. Cash is locked up in the Treasury in the palace, and is not drawn on until the revenue in kind is exhausted. No exemption from dues is now allowed, so the Prime Minister informed me, though it was not infrequent in the days of his predecessor in office.

Trading Dhows, &c.—There is no regular communication with the continent or Ceylon. Trade is by dhows or buggalows, twelve to twenty leaving each month for Calcutta, Bombay, Colombo, &c. All belong to strangers, none to residents of the islands.

Supplies.—Supplies are very limited. Rice, all imported, is the principal article of food. The islands supply bonito fish, all dried, and coconuts. A few fowls and goats, bananas, and nuts are to be found in Malé. Water is plentiful but brackish, and probably tainted from the burial grounds, which are everywhere. The better classes get their drinking water either from Ceylon or by collecting rain water in earthenware chatties.

There are no beggars. No one seems anxious to sell anything. The population seemed cheerful and healthy. The island is well sheltered by trees; the streets wide, well laid out, and clean. Houses neat and in good repair. Good order, in private as in public affairs, appears to be the general idea of the community, and this will no doubt continue so long as communication with the outside world remains as limited as it is at present.

H.M.S. Highflyer at sea, May 19, 1903.

C. H. WILLIS,
Major Brevet Lieut.-Col. R.M.L.I.

No. 80.

His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

ss. Heafee, May 23, 1903.

SIR,—THIS letter is to inform Your Excellency that I sailed from Colombo on the 15th May, 1903, to Malé, and arrived there at 7 o'clock on the 20th morning. When I entered the harbour of Malé I did not find the man-of-war as expected, and I was rather perplexed.

After a short time a boat came alongside the steamer, and in it were, viz., Hassan Didi, Abdulla Didi (brother of Ibrahim Didi), now in Colombo, Mafut Takuru-fan, Numaraganduwaruge Dori Manipulu, Don Sikka Didi, and the doctor of Malé. Hassan Didi exclaimed in a loud voice saying, "This is the letter that was given by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Ceylon to be given to His Highness's hands."

After I received the letter I opened it and saw that it was written in Tamil, and these were the contents:—

"I inquired about the whole matter, and found that most of the people did not want to have you as the Sultan, but that they would give you a title as Manipulu.

"I was anxiously expecting Your Highness and delayed for a short time, but could not stay a longer time, and I expect that when Your Highness receives this letter to return to Colombo for a short time."

This letter was written on the 19th May, 1903.

I asked the gentlemen who came alongside the steamer, viz., Hassan Didi, &c., to ask my brother Dori Manipulu to come and see me, but Hassan Didi said in a thundering voice that Dori Manipulu would not be allowed to come at all. Then Hassan Didi took a receipt for His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor's letter and went ashore.

After a short time the doctor came again and ordered the passengers to go ashore. Again, in an hour's time, he returned with a servant from Dori Manipulu bearing a letter, and that letter says: "I am very anxious to see you my brother, but I do not find the means of coming to you."

Then the doctor came to His Highness and said: "I have orders not to salute Your Highness, or to allow Your Highness to have any private intercourse with your brother's servant, or to allow any other man to come on board." After these words he went ashore.

Owing to the unjust behaviour of these people, and the inability of seeing my brother, and the order to return to Colombo in the Lieutenant-Governor's letter, I thought it advisable to return to Colombo and see Your Excellency and get a ready redress for my grievances.

My son got very sick on board, owing to the tedious journey we had.

I sailed from Malé on the 20th at 5 P.M.

I am sorry to inform Your Excellency that I am rather indisposed at present, but hope to be soon better.

Hoping Your Excellency is in good health,

I remain, &c.,

MUHAMMAD IMAD-UD-DIN,
Sultan of the Maldives.

No. 81.

Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West
Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

MAY His Excellency's pre-eminence be lasting.

It is hereby made known to Your Excellency that the ss. Ileafee with my uncle's son Muhammad Imad-ud-din, Abdul Rahiman Bey (the father of the wife he married at Suez), and certain others on board arrived here on the 22nd of the current month of Safar, and without anchoring was laying to moving about here and there. Though the anchoring was awaited for about an hour they did not anchor. Then we sent two Viziers with the doctor and Amir Bahar (Harbour Master) that they might communicate to him all that had transpired here, inform him that if he wished to land he could land with safety and respect, and deliver the letter which had been left with us for Muhammad Imad-ud-din by the Lieutenant-Governor and Colonial Secretary of Ceylon. Then when those sent by me went to the ship with the said letter he kept them off and would not allow them to go on board or permit the lowering of the ladder or take any notice of them, and said that he did not want to speak to any one but his brother Manduge Dori Manipul. Those who went, however, delivered the letter while the ship was still moving about without anchoring. Then they came and reported to me what had happened. Then as I have a desire to get on very peaceably with him, I requested his brother Manduge Dori Manipul to interfere in this matter and to bring to his knowledge all that had transpired here, and to inform him that if he wished to land and live here he could do so with safety and much respect. As requested, he (Manduge Dori Manipul) wrote a letter and sent it by his own servant to the ship. When that servant went with the letter the ship cast anchor and he was taken on board. Then about half an hour afterwards, as soon as that man left the ship, the ship started to go. Then when we inquired of his brother about this, he said in reply "I wrote to him of all that had taken place here, and informed him as requested by you. I, however, do not know what passed in his mind."

I have now informed Your Excellency of all that has taken place here without exaggeration or suppression.

Now our State is enjoying much safety and prosperity as in former times.

May Your Excellency live long, enjoying all the blessings the heart desires.

Dated at Malé this the 26th of Safar 1321 A.H., which corresponds to the 24th May, 1903.

No. 82.

MOTION in the Legislative Council by the Hon. Mr. W. G. Rockwood, M.D., on June 15, 1903,
and the Governor's Reply.

The Hon. the Tamil Member:—I beg to ask if Government could give any information as to the state of affairs in the Maldives, and what action Government has taken in the recent Maldivian affairs.

His Excellency the Governor's Reply.

The recent incidents in the Maldives have excited so much interest—and I may say so much misconception—in this Colony that I am glad that the Hon. Member has given me an opportunity of making a statement which will show exactly how matters stand. Our relations with the Maldivian Islands only date from 1883. Previous to that year they were completely independent; but in 1883 the then Governor, Sir Arthur Gordon, entered into an agreement with the Sultan Muin-ud-din, according to which the Sultan recognized the suzerainty of Great Britain and engaged not to enter into any negotiations or treaties or agreements with any foreign power, except with our consent and through our medium. On the other hand, we engaged to recognize Sultan Muin-ud-din and his successors and defend the Maldives against all foreign aggression, and we also undertook not to interfere with the administration of the Maldives or in the internal concerns of those islands. That was in 1883. The Sultan Muin-ud-din, who negotiated that treaty, had about two years before then ousted from the Sultanate his uncle Nur-ud-din.

Now, I must tell you at once I do not pretend to understand the subtleties and the intricacies of the law which regulates the succession in the Maldives. There appears to be, so far as I can make out, some law of usage, but it is very uncertain, and apparently so long as the succession is kept in the reigning family, it is left very much to public opinion to say who that particular member of that family should be. Sultan Muin-ud-din shortly after he negotiated this treaty abdicated in favour of

the uncle, and here again I may say that this word "abdication" is very common in the history of the revolutions of the Maldives, and is, I fancy, more or less a euphemism. Well, Nur-ud-din ascended the throne. I presume he notified his succession to the Ceylon Government. At any rate it was acquiesced in without comment. He died in 1893. He was succeeded by his son Sams-ud-din. He was a boy, and his cousin, the present Sultan Imad-ud-din, became the Regent. This was reported to the Ceylon Government, and Sir Arthur Havelock sent Mr. Gerald Browne to make inquiry—to inquire whether the succession was according to the law and usage, and more particularly whether it was approved of by the Maldivian people. Mr. Browne's inquiry as to the law and usage does not seem to have been very exhaustive. Possibly it could not be exhaustive, but he was quite satisfied that the succession of the Sultan was approved of by the people, and in accordance with his instructions he recognized the Sultan accordingly. When Sams-ud-din became of age in 1900 he memorialized His Majesty's Government. He asserted that he had been ousted when he was a minor and his cousin was Regent, and pointed out that he was the rightful Sultan. The Government decided that it was too late to re-open the question, and that he could not be recognized.

Well, the present Sultan has reigned for about nine years, seven of which have been during my term of office, and I cannot say I have found him particularly amenable to advice. I think he has taken his stand on the clause of the treaty which forbids our interference, but, however that may be, occasionally when we have had to offer him advice and warning he has neither heeded our warning nor taken our advice, and more especially when he engaged in his service a British subject, Dadabhoy, a man we do not think a suitable servant of the State, and who was engaged, and is still engaged, in a vexatious litigation with this Government. In spite of our protest he insisted in continuing this man in his service, and I cannot help thinking that it is to the influence of this man that the calamities of the Sultan are greatly due. It was under his influence probably that the Sultan became an absentee ruler for the last twenty-four months more or less from his territory. During the last nine months of that period he was in Egypt, which of course necessitated a great deal of expenditure, and I understand that before His Highness left the Maldives for Egypt he depleted the Treasury. In Egypt he contracted a marriage with a lady of the highest respectability, but this marriage involved greater expense, and he had to draw on the Maldives and on Ceylon for money. Finally, according to the marriage contract, the lady was to reside not at Malé, but in Colombo, where she was to maintain a dignity suitable to a Sultan's wife, and the Sultan was to come to Colombo as much as he could. I think this was the last straw which broke down the endurance of the Maldivian people, and by a bloodless and quiet revolution they deposed the Sultan and placed this Sams-ud-din, to whom I have alluded, on the throne. Sultan Imad-ud-din telegraphed to me from Egypt, and I telegraphed to him that I could not interfere; but when Sams-ud-din notified his succession to me he based his right entirely on his claim as rightful heir, and as this claim had not been recognized by the Government, I declined to recognize him.

But while the Sultan was on his way here representations reached me from various quarters and from the Ministers of the new Sultan containing grave charges of maladministration against Sultan Imad-ud-din. Accordingly I arranged, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, that the Lieutenant-Governor should proceed on a mission to the Maldives, and I gave instructions that if he found on his arrival there that the charges of maladministration were untrue, and that the Sultan had been deposed by a mere intrigue, he was to give him at least his moral support in regaining his throne; but if there had been real maladministration, and if the great majority of the people refused to recognize Imad-ud-din, he was not to interfere. These instructions were most carefully explained to Sultan Imad-ud-din (and assented to by him) both by the Lieutenant-Governor and myself, and it was arranged with his acquiescence that it would be better if he did not arrive at Malé until the Lieutenant-Governor had had time to complete his inquiry. The Lieutenant-Governor went to the Maldives, made his inquiry, and was satisfied that the charges of maladministration were proved, and that not only the great majority of the people, but the entire population were opposed to the return of the Sultan, and would not recognize him. Unfortunately the Sultan was detained by bad weather, and the man-of-war which conveyed the Lieutenant-Governor was required on other duty, and had to leave before the Sultan's vessel arrived. Mr. im Thurn left a letter to him explaining the situation. The Sultan on his arrival at Malé did not attempt to land—he had not a single supporter in the place apparently—and he came back to Colombo, where he now is. I must tell you that the Pretender—I call him the Pretender to distinguish him from the Sultan—and his Ministers promised Mr. im Thurn if the Sultan landed he would be treated with honour and respect, conveyed to his new house which he has recently built, and given the allowance which is usually given to Maldivian Princes, and we are at present negotiating what the amount of this allowance should be.

That, Gentlemen, has been our policy in regard to the Maldives, and I ask what the alternative policy was? It was to place the Sultan by force over these reluctant people and maintain him by force. Why should we do this? Did our treaty obligations oblige us to do so? Certainly not. Were we under such personal obligations to the Sultan that we ought to do so? I think not. Had such an act of injustice been perpetrated that we were morally bound to help the Sultan? I think you will agree with me there was no such case. The Maldivians are a simple and unsophisticated people, and as long as they can manage their own affairs without bloodshed we had much better leave them alone. As far as I can make out, the only element of danger is the local British traders, and over the intrigues of these gentlemen we have to keep a very careful eye. And I must further tell you the late Sultan and the *de facto* Sultan have been warned that no monopolies and no concessions favouring one trader against another would be recognized by us, as we considered them to be prejudicial to British trade. The only other alternative, as I say, was interference, and such interference if attempted must be effective. It would be necessary not only to place the Sultan on the throne by force, but maintain him there by force; then there would have followed a British Resident, and then a reform of the administration, the supply of their wants, including possibly a water supply, and raising up life in the Maldives to the higher standard enjoyed here; but I do not think if I came to you and asked you to pay for this quixotic enterprise you would readily vote the money. This is the stage at which the Maldivian crisis stands.

The Hon. the Tamil Member :—I beg to thank Your Excellency for the statement, which will dispel a great deal of misconception, and establish the fact that Government has not been inactive in the matter.

No. 83.

Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., to the
Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P.

Miscellaneous.—No. 239.

The Queen's House, Colombo.
Ceylon, June 17, 1903.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to address you regarding Maldivian affairs.

2. In my despatch No. 128 of 8th April I reported to you that Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din, who had been absent for nine months from his dominions, had been deposed during his absence by his first cousin Muhammad Sams-ud-din. I added that I proposed to depute an officer to Malé to inquire into the state of things and to give the Sultan, on his return, all the moral support in my power "should the result of the inquiry prove that it is desirable to do so. Beyond that I do not propose to interfere." On 1st May, on receipt of further information from the Maldives, I telegraphed as follows: "Referring to my despatch No. 128 as regards Maldivian affairs, Sultan will arrive here from Egypt about 11th May, and I propose to depute the Lieutenant-Governor in man-of-war, which Admiral is willing to lend, to Maldivian Islands to make inquiry, and, if he sees no objection, to replace Sultan in power. There will not be disturbance, as usurpation is apparently result of intrigue by some Bombay merchants, and not spontaneous act of people. Sultan will be warned that if in future he cannot hold his own he must not expect assistance from us."

3. My proposal was approved by you, and on the 14th May Mr. im Thurn left for Malé in H.M.S. Highflyer, which was kindly lent by the Naval Commander-in-Chief for the mission. Before leaving I gave Mr. im Thurn the instructions contained in my Minute of 10th May.* When this Minute was written the only information before me, besides rumours and reports from Malé, was the letter of Muhammad Sams-ud-din, which formed an enclosure to my despatch of 8th April, informing me that he had ascended the throne, and justifying his action by his claim to be the rightful Sultan, a claim which had been rejected by His Majesty's Government in 1901. But before Mr. im Thurn had actually embarked I received a letter dated 10th May† from Muhammad Sams-ud-din, which put matters in a different light by formulating definite charges of maladministration against the Sultan. I accordingly somewhat modified my previous instructions in a second Minute.‡ In this I stated that if the charges in question "are substantiated, and if the Lieutenant-Governor finds that the people are strongly opposed to the reinstatement of the Sultan," we should not be justified in forcing him upon them.

4. The Sultan arrived from Egypt on 11th May, and it was arranged that he should sail for Malé a day later than the Lieutenant-Governor, in order to enable the latter, before His Highness's arrival, to ascertain the facts and to decide as to whether he should intervene in the Sultan's favour. Both the Lieutenant-Governor and I, in separate interviews, carefully explained the situation to the Sultan, and he clearly understood that if the people refused to accept him, and especially if the charges of maladministration were proved, we would not intervene in his favour.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor sailed on 14th May, and the Sultan on the following day. I enclose copies of Mr. im Thurn's clear and interesting reports.§ I fully concur with the conclusion at which he has arrived, namely, that we are not justified in replacing Sultan Imad-ud-din on the throne against the wish of the people. To begin with, we should have to maintain him there by force, which, besides other obvious objections, would be opposed to the policy of non-interference with Maldivian politics, which we have hitherto wisely observed.

6. The deposed Sultan has no just grievance against us. He always resented any appearance of interference on our part, rarely if ever accepted our advice, and his present troubles are mainly due to his having, in the face of our remonstrances, retained in his service, and as one of his principal advisers, the Parsee Dalabhoj Nasserwanjee, who has been some time engaged in vexatious litigation with this Government. It is this man who is responsible for many of the Sultan's mistakes, and more especially for his visit to Egypt and for his marriage there. By the terms of the marriage contract the lady was to reside in Colombo, where she was to be maintained in fitting dignity, and the Sultan was from time to time to visit her there. This would have necessitated further extravagance and renewed absence from his dominions. I am of opinion that the Sultan's deposition was in the interests of the simple and unsophisticated people whom he had ruled for the last eleven years.

7. You will observe that Mr. im Thurn refers, with sympathy, to the claim of Sams-ud-din to be the rightful Sultan. The subject was dealt with in the correspondence ending with your despatch No. 133 of 18th May, 1901. Although it was then decided not to re-open the question, I have grave doubts as to whether Sams-ud-din was not unfairly deposed by Sultan Imad-ud-din, and whether a rude justice has not been done by his *coup d'état*.

8. Unfortunately Sultan Imad-ud-din was detained by bad weather and Mr. im Thurn was obliged to leave before His Highness's arrival at Malé, as the "Highflyer" could not be spared any longer from her station in view of certain contingencies in the Persian Gulf. Mr. im Thurn accordingly sailed from Malé on 19th May, leaving a letter¶ for the Sultan Imad-ud-din, who arrived on 20th May. There are contrary reports as to what then happened. I enclose copy of a letter from Sams-ud-din,** which gives his account, but Sultan Imad-ud-din** stated that he was not allowed to land. He afterwards modified this by saying that he read Mr. im Thurn's letter as an intimation that he was to return to Colombo without landing. Anyway, he found that he was friendless and powerless, and that there was no use in trying to recover his throne. Accordingly he returned to Colombo on 23rd May.

9. You will observe that Sams-ud-din promised Mr. im Thurn that a suitable allowance would be made to Sultan Imad-ud-din and that his just debts would be paid. Provided that a satisfactory arrangement is made, I propose to recognize Sams-ud-din as Sultan on this basis. I understand from the father of Sultan Imad-ud-din's Egyptian bride, apparently a gentleman of position and high respectability, that this arrangement would, under the circumstances, be acceptable to His Highness and the lady. I should be glad to learn by cable that the proposals meet with your approval.

I have, &c.,

WEST RIDGEWAY.

* See No. 77. † See No. 76. ‡ See No. 78. § See No. 79. ¶ See Sub-Enclosure No. 2 in Enclosure No. 1 in No. 79.
¶ See No. 81. ** See No. 80.

Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din Iskandar to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

Colombo, June 26, 1903.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—It is with no small reluctance that I have resolved to intrude upon Your Excellency's time and attention. Yet I find myself so placed that no choice is left me but to bring myself directly and fully before you in a representation of the sort I intend in this appeal. The troubles that press upon me are overwhelming; my situation at present is such as to give exceptional poignancy to the wrongs I suffer; while the action and attitude to them of Your Excellency's Government of late, however well-meant, have been such as to add to my pain and disappointment.

I feel but too keenly the difficulty that confronts me even in this attempt to appeal to Your Excellency, for Your Excellency's ear has, I am afraid, been already possessed by an account of the late troubles in my dominions such as is not in accordance with fact and truth. Agencies and influences have been at work, whose aim has been not only industriously to conceal the truth, but actually to put a falsehood in its place, and my case has, I have reason to fear, been set before Your Excellency in a light the most unfavourable to me. And all the while I have been absent and unheard, with no opportunity to afford the needed explanation, and no power to expose the plausible misrepresentations. Yet even so I will not despair. I have sufficient faith in the power of truth to vindicate itself, and sufficient confidence both in your sense of justice and in your generous and kindly sympathy with misfortune to feel sure that, in spite of all that may have gone to put a false colour on the situation, Your Excellency's instincts of right and the friendly sentiments you have always been pleased to entertain towards me will lead you both to a correct conclusion and to the action that such a conclusion must render due and fitting. So confident am I in this belief that I have forwarded a message by cable to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State asking him to suspend his decision on the case till I have laid it fully before you and him.

Let me first lay before Your Excellency what took place in my dominions since I left for Suez. The recital is short, though the events have proved so fateful. On the 4th November, 1902, I left for Suez on an affair of a private and personal nature. I went in order to complete an alliance of marriage negotiations, which had for some time been proceeding. I left my brother Dori Manipulu Regent during my absence, a choice excellent in itself, and approved by my then Ministers and by my people. On my way I landed in Colombo, and Your Excellency was pleased to accord me the customary honours, and to show me the consideration and kindness I have always received at your hands. The object of my visit was of course rumoured abroad, but the incomplete stage at which the negotiations were, and the reserve which custom and delicacy enjoin among us in such a matter, did not permit of my direct personal mention of it to Your Excellency. I had hoped to come back after perfecting an union which would have conducted in so many ways to the welfare of my land and the happiness of my subjects.

But in my absence evil influences were at work. A plot was formed among a knot of men in the Maldives, tools in the hands of Ibrahim Didi, the Prime Minister who had been banished by me, and who has, ever since his banishment, been living in Ceylon and been continually intriguing against me, and of a certain merchant at Colombo, of whom Ibrahim Didi, while Prime Minister, had been the friend and patron to the serious injury of the revenues of the Maldives. My cousin Muhammad Sams-ud-din, who had twice before written to the Ceylon Government begging to be made Sultan, and whose impudent request had been on both occasions promptly and peremptorily refused, was easily prevailed upon to make a show of right to my throne. My palace was entered at dead of night by a band of conspirators and my throne was seized by a usurper.

When the startling intelligence of what was taking place in my absence reached me, I at once communicated with Your Excellency, and on receipt of Your Excellency's kind message by telegraph, I lost no time in making for home with a view to take immediate steps for my restoration to the rights of which I had been so unlawfully and so treacherously deprived. On arrival at Colombo I was again received, through Your Excellency's kindness, with the usual marks of friendly consideration. Your Excellency decided to send a Commissioner to the Maldives to make an investigation into the late disturbances. The Commissioner left on the 14th May last in H.M.S. Highflyer, and I was requested to follow him in the ss. Ileafee that was kindly engaged for me by Your Excellency's Government. I started in the full expectation of being restored to my throne and my rights, but through stress of weather the vessel by which I went was not able to make her voyage so fast as the "Highflyer." Consequently I was unable to reach Malé till the 20th May last, while the "Highflyer" conveying the Commissioner had reached it on the 16th May. What was more unfortunate, the Commissioner did not wait till my arrival, but returned to Colombo, leaving a letter for me that was handed to me as soon as the "Ileafee" reached the Maldives, requesting me to return to Ceylon. I cannot but express here my deep regret at the means employed for the conveyance of this letter to me. It was not left with my brother, the Regent, to be given to me, nor was it sent by any of the persons loyal to me, but it was left with Hassan Didi, one of the chief conspirators against me, who handed it to one of my attendants, and he handed it in an insolent manner, accompanying the delivery with insulting language. When I asked that my brother, the Regent, should be requested to see me, this natural and reasonable request was met with the peremptory and insolent remark that that could not be. In the boat which conveyed the letter to the vessel were, besides Hassan Didi, the brother of Ibrahim Didi and other people I had banished for misconduct. Your Excellency will allow that this treatment showed neither courtesy nor judgment.

In the circumstances I naturally deemed the message strange and disappointing; in the circumstances also I thought it proper to comply with its request, and duly returned to Colombo. It is important to observe, for it will explain what I have further to urge in regard to the occurrences at the Maldives, that as soon as it was known in Colombo that a Commissioner was to go to the Maldives, the ss. Aska was chartered by Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee, one of the merchants at Colombo, whom I have before mentioned as the friend and former protégé of Ibrahim Didi, the Prime Minister I banished, and who has ever since been living in Colombo, that the ss. Aska was engaged by that gentleman and despatched with all haste to Malé. It left about a week in advance of the "Highflyer," and neither took any cargo from Colombo nor returned with any cargo from the Maldives. The object plainly was to let the party of the usurper—that is to say, the party acting under the instigation

of Carimjee Jafferjee and his friend Ibrahim Didi—know what was going to happen, and to bid them prepare matters accordingly. The vessel in fact conveyed a document prepared in Colombo by Ibrahim Didi and his party, and to this document the usurper and his associates got by intimidation or deceit the assent of unwilling or unsuspecting signatories and forwarded it to Your Excellency's Government.

I cannot too often or too strongly impress upon Your Excellency that the events of the 11th March last did not occur, in the remotest sense, at the bidding, or with the sanction, or with the knowledge of my people. These have all along been loyal to my person, are, with the exception of about a score of people whom the intriguers have got into their power, perfectly loyal to me still. The so-called revolution is due, as regards its motives, organization, and accomplishment, entirely and exclusively to the joint plotting of Ibrahim Didi, the banished Prime Minister, of Hassan Didi, of whom it will be sufficient to give the description left by Mr. Stanley Gardiner on his leaving the Maldives (Annexure B), and to add that his acts and character were such that Your Excellency forbade him to be received at Queen's House, and of Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee, who, while Ibrahim Didi was Prime Minister, enjoyed monopolies and exemptions from Customs' duty, which I caused to cease the moment I discovered the illegal concessions.

It is these disaffected and intriguing men that are wholly responsible for the trouble that has been brought upon me and my people. The people are too ignorant to know what is going on, and too timid to speak their real mind in the presence of those who are to all appearance masters of the situation, and too loyal to me, if they could but speak their real sentiments, not to acknowledge and acclaim me with heartiness and enthusiasm. All the evil is due to these designing men, who for their own advantage wish to set a puppet on the throne whom they might control as they will. And many times before, in the recent history of the Maldives, they have done the very same thing.

After landing in Colombo I was on the 12th May last accorded an interview with the Lieutenant-Governor, who was the Commissioner appointed by Your Excellency to visit the Maldives as aforesaid. I ought hereto say that I was favoured with two interviews with the Lieutenant-Governor, the one on the 12th and the other on the 27th May last; both were at Colombo, and minutes of what occurred at both have been kindly furnished me by Your Excellency's order. These minutes, I must add, omit to mention some features of the interviews that have an important bearing on the representation I am now making to Your Excellency, and such I will ask leave to refer to in their due connection.

At the first interview, upon the Lieutenant-Governor informing me of his intention to proceed to the Maldives and make inquiry as to the late occurrences there, I ventured to apprise him of the difficulty of learning the truth in my absence, and while the men whose interest it was to conceal the truth and to advance all kinds of misrepresentation were in possession of power and of all the outward signs of power. I gave him a list of some six or more of the mischief-makers, and begged of him, if he would ascertain the real truth of the situation and the real wish of my people, to take steps to prevent the influence of these men over, and their interference with, the course of the investigation. This unfortunately was not done. I beg leave to annex a copy of the list I gave him.* What my intimate knowledge of the Maldivian people and Maldivian matters then enabled me to foresee and foretell has since taken place in almost every detail as I had anticipated. The inquiry by the Lieutenant-Governor, made as it was in the circumstances I have mentioned, I beg leave respectfully to say is not only useless, but is delusive and misleading in the extreme. It has not ascertained, and could not in the nature of things ascertain, the true facts of the situation either with regard to myself or the conspiracy formed against me. Nor did it ascertain the real sentiments and attitude of my people. Any action founded upon what was gathered at such an inquiry, I must emphatically and earnestly submit, will be action founded upon a basis of misinformation and of misrepresentation on the part of a small but determined and influential and unscrupulous faction. But if the earlier interview inspired doubt and misgiving as to the chances of the truth being ascertained, that which followed simply struck me dumb with the revelation it made of the completeness with which designing schemes and plausible falsehoods had got the better of truth.

I was too much overcome, and in my then state of health utterly unable, to do aught but show by abstinence from discussion how deeply I felt the wrong that has been done to me. Nor, if Your Excellency will consider it, will Your Excellency be surprised that the situation should have affected me thus. Permit me to recall the circumstances to Your Excellency: my absence at Suez upon important and urgent business; the adequate and excellent provision I had made for the administration of affairs during my absence; the reception at Colombo graciously accorded me by Your Excellency on my way; my instant return homewards on receipt of Your Excellency's kind message regarding the disorders that had arisen in my absence; the kind reception accorded to me again at Colombo; the interview I had with the Lieutenant-Governor on the 12th May, at which I readily consented to every proposal made to me by him; the interview graciously granted me by Your Excellency at Nuwara Eliya: the resumption of my voyage to the Maldives in exact accordance with the wishes and arrangements of the Lieutenant-Governor and in a steamer engaged for me by Your Excellency's Government; my return to Ceylon on receiving the letter the Lieutenant-Governor had left for me at Malé. These were antecedents that foreshadowed and justified a far different result from that it was my misfortune to meet with at the interview I had with the Lieutenant-Governor on the 27th May. I was not prepared for, and felt deeply grieved at, what seemed to me a sudden and complete change in the attitude hitherto uniformly observed towards me by Your Excellency's Government. I could see at once that I had become the victim of a foul and fatal misrepresentation. The plot contrived by a band of intriguers in the Maldives, and their friends who promoted and indeed planned it here, had but too surely succeeded.

I had looked for sympathy and counsel and support such as had all along been given me by Your Excellency's Government, and it quite astonished me to find that I was treated as though I was a criminal. I was charged with maladministration. What was more, I found that the rights allowed even to a criminal were denied me, for the charge had already been determined against me. The Lieutenant-Governor had taken for granted that all that was said about me by my enemies at the Maldives, which was what they had been instructed to say by the Prime Minister I had banished and other wirepullers here—was true, and he concluded that I had brought on my own misfortunes by my maladministration. The fact was, I repeat it with all respect, but with what Your Excel-

* See Sub-Enclosure No. 1 in Enclosure No. 1 in No. 79.

lency will allow to be no needless emphasis—that it was his inquiry that was at fault, and that I had told him it would fail if he should not take means to exclude the interference of the mischief-makers I had named. A lie had been passed upon him for the truth, and in his inexperience of Maldivian ways he had finally accepted it as the truth.

I need not labour with Your Excellency to disprove the false and even absurd charges which the Lieutenant-Governor mentions as having been made against me, and which he seemed persuaded represented the genuine and unanimous feeling of my people. Sufficient here to say there is not a word of truth in any of them, and that all of them proceed from the malicious and desperate schemes of Ibrahim Didi, my late Prime Minister, now banished, Hassan Didi, another Minister, who has proved false to me, of a certain Colombo merchant whom they attempted to favour at the Maldives to mine and to my people's loss, and of their friends and relatives in the Maldives. As to extravagance, I do not think that Your Excellency will deem an expenditure of Rs. 45,000 by one in my position and upon a mission such as took me to Suez an extraordinary and extravagant expense, especially in view of the circumstance that this was all the expense of the kind I had incurred in the course of a reign of eleven years. Certainly my people do not grudge or complain. As to depletion of the Treasury, the statement is not so much false as ridiculous. What was in the Treasury is still there, or ought to be. The accounts at the palace will show the true state of the matter. The Treasury had really been depleted by Ibrahim Didi, and it was my discovery of this and the steps I took to remove him from its control that have led him to form this plot against me. Similarly with the assertion that I gave over all power to others. What really galls those who say this is that I did not give all power to *them*; and any one who should inquire into the state of the Maldives during the last four years—that is to say, since I, for his malpractices, deprived of power and banished Ibrahim Didi, the Prime Minister—will tell Your Excellency that the great feature of my Government has been that I kept all power to myself. I found by experience that this was the course demanded both in my own interests and in the interests of my people. The giving of extensive power to Ministers and Officers was the bane of the Government of the Maldives, and I had long since determined to alter the practice. In fact I am the only Sultan who dared to vigorously and systematically curtail the powers of the Ministers and to remove from office, and in extreme cases even to banish from the country, the disobedient and the corrupt. I am the only Sultan, indeed, that ever went out of the capital; others were insidiously worked upon by their Ministers and induced to remain at Malé, while the Ministers did as they pleased. Ibrahim Didi, my late Prime Minister, now in exile in Ceylon, was one of the first to feel the effects of the new policy. His offences were not of a character to be overlooked or lightly treated. They were serious, were often repeated, and it was clear that he had acquired a settled habit of intrigue and corruption. Indeed, he had once before attempted to do the very same thing he has succeeded in doing now. Between 1885 and 1887 when Muhammad Muin-ud-din was on the throne, this Ibrahim Didi, who was then a Minister, together with Hassan Didi Velana Manik-tan (the same who has now joined him again), got the Sultan to order all the merchants in the Maldives, except their *protégé* Carimjee Jafferjee, to leave the Maldives within four months. Justly aggrieved at this arbitrary and insolent act, these merchants, who were British subjects, petitioned to the Government of Ceylon and the Governor of Bombay and the Governor-General of India. In consequence of these representations the Governor-General of India sent a message to the Ceylon Government of sending an Admiral's vessel to the Maldives to make inquiries. The Commander, finding the complaints substantiated, and satisfying himself that the maladministration was traceable to the schemes of these two intriguing Ministers, warned them against the grant of monopolies like those they were contemplating. Upon the Sultan finding out the true state of affairs he dismissed Ibrahim Didi from office. Thereupon Ibrahim Didi and Hassan Didi and their partisans contrived a plot for the murder of the Sultan in his palace. The design happily leaked out. The Sultan at once held a Council, called out the army, and on Ibrahim Didi's house being searched a band of some fifty conspirators was found in it with swords, lances, and instruments of war, as also coir yarn soaked in kerosine oil and ready for purposes of incendiarism. Further investigation made into the circumstances fully established the formation of a conspiracy by these men. They even admitted their crime. They were sentenced—Ibrahim Didi and Hassan Didi being the chief of them—to be lashed and transported to the Adda atolls, and the sentence was carried out, and peace, order, and tranquillity were once more restored throughout the dependency.

Subsequently, at the desire of Sir Arthur Gordon, Ibrahim Didi, being a British subject, was sent to Colombo, where he remained an exile, and when the treaty was about to be made took advantage of the occasion and by false representations contrived to get back to the Maldives. There he resumed his schemes, and by further intrigue and misrepresentation got Ibrahim Nur-ud-din into the throne of Muhammad Muin-ud-din and so became Prime Minister. Thus he got his office back and carried on his schemes of plunder and intrigue until I found him intolerable and banished him again, and ever since then he has lived in Ceylon, continuing his plots, however, by means of his son and brother and other relations, as well as by the Bombay merchant in Colombo whom I have mentioned. Your Excellency will thus see that this is not the first time this person has attempted a deed of the sort to which I have unfortunately fallen a victim. Of course it is necessary to a ruler to have about him persons he can trust, and who have natural inducements to be loyal and true. If I chose some such persons from amongst my relatives, it was less on account of relationship than because they were unquestionably the ablest and in every way the most suitable men to fill the posts. When I left for Suez I gave the administration in temporary charge of my brother Dori Manipulu, a man of unimpeachable integrity and well versed in Maldivian law and usage. No one, I feel sure, can rightly blame the choice.

One name that is mentioned calls for more remark. The Lieutenant-Governor says I was accused of giving all power to such outsiders as Dadabhoy. I must ask Your Excellency to permit me to say that this accusation is a gross and scandalous falsehood, as unjust to Mr. Dadabhoy as it is to me. Mr. Dadabhoy is a gentleman I have known for some time. But so far from giving him all power, I never gave him any at all. He had nothing to do in the administration of affairs. He did me excellent service in one or two matters of a purely private nature, but I have had no connection with him in any other way. In saying this I must, in justice to Mr. Dadabhoy, add that he never even sought or desired any such power from me. His assistance was invaluable to me in making arrangements for my journey during the pilgrimage I undertook recently to Mecca. Again, in my late trip to Egypt, he was similarly useful. Perhaps it may prevent misunderstanding if I state specifically the nature

and extent of my connection with him while at Suez. Being in need of money, I telegraphed for a loan to some Bombay merchants in Colombo, namely, Messrs. Abdul Ali, Carimjee Jafferjee, and Noorbhai. The second offered to give me the money on condition that I would exempt his goods from paying Customs duties, and my Minister Hassan Didi, who was also then at Colombo, pressed upon me that I should accept this condition. I refused, as these exemptions, granted while Ibrahim Didi was in power, were a great loss to the Customs revenue. I then resolved to despatch Mr. Dadabhoy (who was in charge of the arrangements in connection with my visit at Suez) to Colombo for the purpose of raising the money. I gave him a power of attorney for the sole purpose of raising a loan, and stating it should not exceed Rs. 75,000. When Mr. Dadabhoy reached Colombo he found that Hakra Manik-fan, my Minister, had arrived here on the same errand, having been sent by my brother, the Regent. Mr. Dadabhoy then handed the power of attorney to the said Minister Hakra Manik-fan, who raised and remitted to me a sum of Rs. 20,000, so that Mr. Dadabhoy did not even raise the money for me or make use, as originally intended, of the authority I had given him. He only borrowed Rs. 1,000 from Carimjee Jafferjee for me. For these services I am indebted to him; but I have not given him, nor has he ever aspired after, one tittle of power in my dominions.

The intriguers against me in Ceylon, among whom, as I have said, is notably Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee, have hoped that this unworthy device of representing me as having given all power to Mr. Dadabhoy will ensure the success of their design. I need scarcely say the trick will not succeed with Your Excellency. In trying to impose upon the Government they have made the mistake of failing to take into account Your Excellency's complete knowledge of human nature in the East.

Such are the representations on which a charge of maladministration has been laid against me, and such the inquiry which it is believed has established these charges. Your Excellency will remember that the inquiry was made in my absence, while my adherents were also away, my people terrorized and deceived. Messages and instructions from Ibrahim Didi and Carimjee Jafferjee and their friends had been conveyed in the ss. Aska fully a week before the "Highflyer" reached the Maldives. Rumours were industriously circulated that I had incurred the conspicuous and unalterable displeasure of Your Excellency's Government, that in fact I had been deposed and the usurper Sams-ud-din been acknowledged by the Ceylon Government as the rightful heir. There was everything to confirm and spread these delusions among a people whose ignorance and whose respect for the Ceylon Government would alone dispose them to accept without question a story of this kind.

In this state of things the Commissioner arrives in a man-of-war and purports to summon the people to a public green. They see the usurper there close to the Commissioner; they see the authors of the conspiracy against me also there. Most of my adherents have been sent away; such as remain are forbidden to leave their homes or are struck dumb with fear and amazement. The Commissioner asks whether the people like the usurper for Sultan, and they answer "Yes." I beg Your Excellency to consider whether anything could have been better calculated to ensure the success of the conspiracy and to subvert the cause of truth and justice. The method followed was somehow exactly that which should have been most carefully avoided. If it was desired to ascertain the real wishes of the people, the proper course, I submit, would have been for the Commissioner first to replace me on the throne, of which I had been in my absence robbed, and then to have asked my people whether they would have me or had ought to say against me. This, the natural and reasonable course, was not adopted, while the course adopted was one admirably suited to defeat the end that was aimed at. Every act and word was calculated to spread the impression that I was an object of dislike to the Ceylon Government, and that it had decided to confirm the usurper. I was treated in a way that must inevitably have confirmed the impression. The people expected that I was going to be brought back. When the "Highflyer" with the Commissioner arrived, they find I am not in the vessel. They hear of an offhand message despatched to my brother, the Regent, ordering him to come to the vessel, and they see the Commissioner himself going to the usurper at the palace and receiving him with the customary marks of respect. Things of this sort, insignificant as they may seem, are sure to strike an ignorant people and influence their behaviour, and they are equally sure to afford material which designing persons can easily pervert to their own base uses. It is to be noted in this connection that it was not the Government Maldivian Interpreter that interpreted the conversation between the Commissioner and the usurper, but Ahamad Didi, the son of Ibrahim Didi, the banished Minister, who is the very soul of this conspiracy. So also as regards the interpretation at the green. The Government Maldivian Interpreter was not allowed to go on shore on the Monday when the general assembly was called at the green, it was Ibrahim Didi's son and Hassan Didi who then interpreted. It must be remembered also that so early as the 31st March last the ss. Ethiopia had conveyed to the Maldives from Colombo Ahamad Didi, the son, and Abdulla Didi, the brother, of the exile and arch-conspirator Ibrahim Didi, together with Numara Gunduvar Dori Manipulu, a banished criminal, and Abdul Raman Alamsha, a Moorman. All these had been sent beforehand by Ibrahim Didi in furtherance of his nefarious scheme.

Placed as they were—deceived for a whole week by false stories, frightened by the knowledge of what would certainly follow objection or repudiation, with the presence of a British man-of-war apparently supporting the pretensions of the usurper and his party—it is inconceivable that the assembly could have come to any other conclusion but that the usurper and his adherents had found favour in British eyes, or adopt any other line of conduct than a forced and uninquiring acquiescence in what to all appearance was the will of the Ceylon Government they regard so much. I mean no disrespect to the Commissioner when I point out the futile, imperfect, and misleading nature of the inquiry. With the best of intentions he was himself the victim of deceit and fraud. Nor, while lamenting the unsatisfactory nature of that inquiry, should I fail to recall to Your Excellency's mind the character and results of previous inquiries. Mr. Gerald Browne and Sir Noel Walker, when Lieutenant-Governor, came and made the fullest inquiry into Maldivian affairs; so did Mr. J. J. Thorburn, sent by Your Excellency; so did the Hon. Mr. Taylor, while acting as Colonial Secretary of Ceylon. The inquiries made by them were full, prolonged, searching, and exhaustive, and I feel proud to beg Your Excellency's attention to the fact that the report made upon every one of these inquiries was eminently favourable to my administration. I do not think Your Excellency will easily be persuaded that in the course of two or three years I could have drifted so far from the satisfactory position which these authoritative representations attest.

I will not trouble Your Excellency with any demonstration of my right to the throne. By descent and by the law and custom of the country I am the rightful heir. A table of genealogy,

which I take leave to append to this letter, will afford such further information as Your Excellency may care to have (Annexure A). But apart even from questions of the right of succession, there is the fact that I have been Sultan for eleven years. Your Excellency and the Ceylon Government have confirmed me and fully recognized my right all through these years—confirmed and recognized it after adequate and well-directed inquiry. More than that, on two occasions when the present usurper, set up by the same intriguers as urge him on now, made so bold as to prefer a claim to the throne as against me, Your Excellency's Government distinctly and fully repelled his pretensions, on the latter occasion even with a stern expression of disapproval. That being so, it becomes unnecessary to discuss the question of right.

To this recital of my wrongs and misfortune I beg Your Excellency's earnest and gracious consideration. It is no light or common trouble that has fallen upon me. I have been despoiled of my throne. It has been seized from me by one who has no manner of right to it, nor indeed, if the full truth were known, any serious wish to hold it, but who is the mere puppet of a band of discomfited intriguers, who hope to make his youth, inexperience, and inability serve their own schemes of greed and rapine and selfish enrichment. I am the prey of plot and perfidy and intrigue, the victim of scandalous misrepresentation. My people are the victims of deceit, and will before long become the victims of an oppression which those who deceive and delude them are even now preparing. The promoters of my country's prosperity are in exile or degradation. Those who have done their best to wreck it, or to make it the mere instrument of their private gain, are coming into honour and prominence and power. The treatment of these disorders by Your Excellency's Government—I speak of the late Commission of Inquiry—has failed to remove or reduce them, has in fact gone in its effects to countenance and aggravate them. And all this in circumstances where I might reasonably have counted upon the sympathy and support of the Ceylon Government, and on the morrow of an event which would have increased immeasurably both my own happiness and that of my people. The bitterness of disappointment and humiliation is added to the harrowing sense of loss and wrong. I am utterly undone. In my despair I find a gleam of comfort in recalling Your Excellency's attitude of consistent kindness and consideration towards me. I think that, to Your Excellency at least, I shall not appeal in vain. I beg Your Excellency's just and powerful interposition to give to me back my rightful throne and to give me back to my loyal people. I make bold even to claim your generous interference. My misfortunes call for sympathy, and my wrongs for redress. Your Excellency will not desert one who has been for eleven long years loyal to the British Crown and obedient to the Ceylon Government, whose rule, in spite of overwhelming difficulties, has done much for the progress of his people, and has gained the approbation of Your Excellency's Government. The relations of the past as well as my present extremity plead powerfully in support of my claim. But I am not without a claim even stronger than these. In the treaty made by my eldest brother, Sultan of the Maldive Islands, with the Government of Ceylon on the 16th December, 1887, such a case as mine was expressly provided for. By the fourth clause of that treaty it was expressly agreed that the Sultan of the Maldive Islands should be protected from internal difficulties by the English Government of Ceylon. I appeal to Your Excellency on the basis of that agreement. I ask the Ceylon Government to give me protection in the difficulties that have arisen within my dominions, and which are so fruitful of injury to myself and to my subjects; and I ask it the more confidently because it was in the territory of Ceylon that the seeds were sown of the plots from which those difficulties have arisen, and by which they are maintained. I earnestly beg that Your Excellency will be pleased, upon a consideration of the grievances I have herein set forth, and I may add that I am prepared to expound and substantiate them more fully in whatever manner Your Excellency may desire, to interpose for my protection. I humbly ask for the protection promised me in the fourth clause of the treaty which I have already cited, a treaty that was entered into at the express and urgent desire of the Government of Ceylon, and every obligation of which I have on my part fully and faithfully performed. I pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to grant me your aid, in such manner as may seem necessary and adequate, to remove the band of conspirators who have caused and are causing difficulties, commotions, confusion, and disorder within my country, and to regain my rightful dominion over a people whose loyalty to me is beyond question, and whose best interests are still, as they have ever been, nearest my heart.

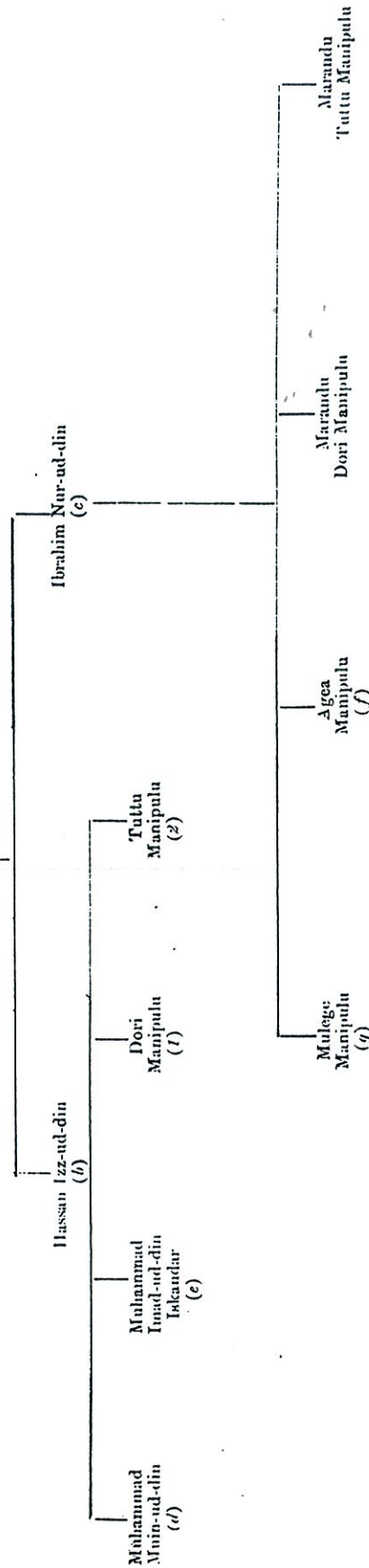
In the earnest hope that an appeal in such circumstances, and made to one who has ever proved himself strong to uphold the right, will not pass unheard and unheeded, and with every assurance of my most profound respect for Your Excellency's person and Government.

I remain, &c.,

HADJIE MUHAMMAD IMAD-UD-DIN ISKANDAR,
Sultan of Maldives.

Annexure A.

(a) *Muhammad Imad-ud-din Iskandar*



(e) Became Sultan in 1832; ruled 49 years; died 1881.

(b) Eldest son. Owing to some sickness when he was about twelve years of age, partly became blind. Still living.

(c) Occupied throne as Regent in 1881; ruled, four years till 1885; retired in his (t) nephew's favour.

(d) Declared Sultan in 1885; ruled two years, till end of 1887. Owing to intrigue he gave Sultanship to his uncle (e); died in 1889.

(e) By intrigue he occupied throne in 1887; died in 1893.

(f) When he was seven years of age was declared Sultan as Muhammad Imad-ud-din in 1891; ruled six months. (Dethroned by principal Ministers and people as against the Maldivian law and usage.)

(t) He became Sultan nominally as Muhammad Sams-ud-din (now usurper), ruled about three months, October to December, 1893, but end of same year was not accepted as Sultan by Ministers and people.

(.) In end of 1893 he was declared Sultan under the name of his grandfather Muhammad Imad-ud-din Iskandar, by the acclamation of all his Ministers and people. When Sultan he left Malé on or about 27th December, 1900, with his brother (1) Dori Manipulu, appointing his younger brother (2) Tuttu Manipulu as Regent in his absence. The Sultan and his brother Dori went on a pilgrimage to Mecca.

On or about 11th September, 1902, when Sultan proceeded to Suez, Egypt, for marriage, he appointed his brother (1) Dori Manipulu as Regent. This Regent was dethroned, and throne was seized by present usurper on the 11th March, in dead of night, in the Sultan's palace, when the Regent was in his private residence.

Annexure B.

J. S. Gardiner, Esq., M.A., in Charge of Maldives Exploring Expedition, to His Highness Muhammad Imad-ud-din, Sultan of the Maldives.

Colombo, May 8, 1900.

I THANK Your Highness for the additional presents which Your Highness has been good enough to send me.

I am informed that Your Highness made arrangements to receive me on the day we left Malé in the ss. *Ileafee*. Neither the Captain of the "*Ileafee*" nor I was aware of this, or the vessel would not have sailed until the evening or for a day or two; we were not aware either from Hassan Didi that Your Highness wished to send over a letter or messengers.

I arranged with Hassan Didi to see Your Highness on the day before sailing, but when I went on shore to see Your Highness, Hassan Didi informed me that Your Highness could not see me. I asked then when I could see His Highness, and Hassan Didi informed me that Your Highness could not see me.

I regret deeply that I was in this way prevented from seeing Your Highness by Your Highness's Velana Manik-fan.

In spite of whatever your Ministers may say, I can again assure Your Highness that you have the best wishes of the Ceylon Government. I am sure, too, that should Your Highness wish to visit Ceylon, India, or England, Your Highness will have the best assistance of the Government.

A letter intimating your wishes should be sent to the Ceylon Government first.

I will write to Your Highness from England, where I shall represent your kindness and attention to my party to the Colonial Office.

Trusting Your Highness may long continue in good health and enjoyment of every blessing,

J. STANLEY GARDINER, M.A.,
In charge of Maldives Exploring Expedition.

No. 85.

MINUTE by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—THE Sultan Imad-ud-din submits a petition and says that he has wired to the Secretary of State to suspend his decision until he has laid his case before Your Excellency and the Secretary of State.

There are several points in the petition on which I feel bound to comment, and will do so in the order of their occurrence.

Imad-ud-din says that his choice of his brother Dori Manipulu to act as Regent during his own absence at Suez was an excellent one. It was an excellent one for Sams-ud-din and his party. Dori Manipulu is the most colourless, timid, and incapable Maldivian that I have come across. No better choice could have been made, if Imad-ud-din had wished to bring about the *coup d'état* which has occurred.

He refers to Sams-ud-din's two previous *impudent* requests to be recognized as Sultan having been *promptly* and *peremptorily* refused. I can answer for it that the refusal on the part of the Secretary of State at least was not prompt, for it was only given after very considerable hesitation, and on the principle of letting the then existing state of things remain as far as possible.

He says that he started on the "*Ileafee*" on 15th May in full expectation of being restored to his throne and his rights. This is not true. He had been carefully warned that if certain things were found to be true he would not be restored, and they were found to be true.

He says that my letter handed to him at Malé "requested him to return to Ceylon," and evidently assumes that I practically instructed him to return to Ceylon instantly. This was certainly not the intention of my letter, though I admit that, in the inevitable haste of the moment, my letter was not as unambiguously expressed as it might have been. I suggested that he should return to Ceylon at his convenience; and I was fully conscious that, under the existing circumstances of hostility to him, it was absolutely impossible for him to remain at Malé at that time.

He complains that my letter was transmitted to him through one hostile to him. The answer is obvious. There was in the whole of Malé only one person not hostile to him, *i.e.*, his brother Dori Manipulu, and he refused to come near me.

He complains that Dori Manipulu was not allowed to visit him on the "*Ileafee*." I do not believe this. Judging from my own experience of the difficulty of getting Dori Manipulu out of his own house, I think it much more likely that he declined to risk himself outside even to get to his brother.

He asserts that as soon as it was known in Colombo that a Commission was to go to the Maldives, Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee sent the "*Aska*" to Malé to give notice and prepare the way. If this is true I did not know it, but it would explain certain things which I noticed at Malé. It may, however, be noted that when the "*Aska*" sailed it was still merely newspaper rumour that any Government official was going, and it was certainly not known that I was going.

To the best of my belief the statements of Imad-ud-din that the people, with the exception of about a score, are loyal to him still is quite unfounded. When I went about among "the people" (*i.e.*, not the Ministers), it was quite certain that even when I was thinking about quite other matters they pressed upon me Sams-ud-din's claims.

As to Ibrahim Didi, it was probably true that he is hostile to Imad-ud-din, and is more or less in accord with the new ruler, as Imad-ud-din flogged him and banished him. I have it from you that it is not true, as Imad-ud-din says, that Your Excellency forbade Ibrahim Didi to be received at Queen's House.

I do not think that from my minutes of my interviews with Imad-ud-din on 12th and 27th May anything of importance was omitted. Only one instance of such omission is, as far as I can see, given, and that is an instance, not of omission on my part, but of lapse of memory on the part of Imad-ud-din. He says that at the first interview he gave me a list of some six or seven of the

mischievous-makers, and begged me not to allow these men to influence the investigation. As a matter of fact he gave me no list, though after I was on board the "Highflyer" and the anchor was already up he sent me such a list.

Imad-ud-din says he was treated as a criminal. I at least have been most courteous to him throughout.

He complains that at the interview with the inhabitants of Malé I stood close to the usurper and thus gave the people an impression that I was there solely to support the usurper. As a matter of fact, with great difficulty I procured the attendance of Imad-ud-din's own man (Dori Manipulu), and I stood between him and Sams-ud-din, as near one as the other.

Imad-ud-din also says that I received the usurper with all the customary marks of respect (to a Sultan). I met Sams-ud-din as a gentleman, but personally showed him no more respect than I did, say, to Dori Manipulu. I must note also that at my request the "Highflyer" fired no salute on arrival or at any other time in honour of the Sultan (Sams-ud-din).

He complains that the Government Maldivian Interpreter was not allowed to land for the Durbar on Monday, but the fact is that he refused to come.

Imad-ud-din makes some capital out of the favourable reports on himself by Mr. Taylor and others. The general impression on my mind by their reports is not to this effect.

He says that by the fourth clause of what he terms the treaty between the Ceylon and Maldivian Governments "it was expressly agreed that the Sultan of the Maldivian Islands should be protected from internal difficulties by the English Government of Ceylon." I presume that it is on the strength of this distorted reading of the document that he made formal application to me to supply him with a body of Ceylon police to keep him on his throne.

I cannot see that Imad-ud-din in this petition brings forward any new facts. The Sultan is, as usual, very inaccurate in saying that the son of Ibrahim Didi was used as an interpreter during my visit to the Maldives. The facts are as follows:—

During my interviews with the Regent and with Mohammed Didi on board the "Highflyer" on the day of my arrival our so-called Government Interpreter was the only Maldivian employed to interpret. Again, when I went ashore that afternoon, I took him and used him as much as possible in my interview with Sams-ud-din in the palace. I say "as much as possible," for it is very difficult to get him to interpret in a straightforward manner, and I used any means that came to my hand to check his interpretation, and even found that with quite an unexpected number of Maldivians who could speak a little English I could to a certain extent get some questions answered in that language. But, as I said before, our Government Interpreter was present on that occasion, and was used as far as he would allow himself to be used. Later in the afternoon, when wandering about the town and asking discursive questions, I took the Government Interpreter with me, but was warned that he was an object of so much hostility that it was not safe to take him about the streets. I however persisted, and made the people understand that he was in attendance on me, and that any attempt to molest him would be sternly checked. He would hardly speak at all after that, but I continued to get on by using a little English and getting my Tamil Interpreter to do Tamil and Hindustani. On the Monday when I went on shore much the same thing happened, and instead of only using the Government Interpreter, I used half a dozen different means of getting at the facts. Throughout my stay at Malé, however, the Government Interpreter, at his own special request, was never on shore without me: and all the general inquiries made by Barr Mudaliyar (who was on shore the whole time) were made through the media of Tamil and Hindustani.

EVERARD IM THURN.

No. 86.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P., to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

Ceylon.—No. 245.

Downing street, July 17, 1903.

SIR.—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 239 of the 17th June relative to recent occurrences in the Maldives.

2. I have also received from the deposed Sultan a telegram that he has fallen a victim to the intrigues and misrepresentations of a usurper.

3. The question which of the two rival claimants has the better hereditary claim to the throne is one on which I am not prepared to express an opinion. The really important factor in the situation is that the Sultan Imad-ud-din appears to have lost the confidence of the people over whom he ruled, and that the action of Muhammad Sams-ud-din in occupying the throne meets with general approval in Malé. It also seems clear that it would not be possible to replace and maintain the deposed Sultan without the use of force, which would be contrary to the principles which have hitherto guided the Government of Ceylon in its relations with the Maldives.

4. I have therefore no hesitation in adopting your view that the best course will be to accept the present situation, and I accordingly telegraphed to you on the 14th instant:—"Referring to your despatch No. 239, proposal approved. Desirable that there should be voluntary abdication on guarantee of specified annual allowance."

5. The suggestion contained in the last sentence of this telegram was made because I feel—and I have no doubt that you will agree—that it is desirable to take some steps to prevent as far as possible the continuance of the perplexing series of revolutions and counter-revolutions which have occurred in the Maldives in recent years. The best method of effecting this seems to be to obtain the withdrawal of the pretensions of the unsuccessful competitor for the throne. It appears from your despatch that no objection need be expected on the part of Sultan Sams-ud-din to the proposal that a suitable fixed allowance shall be guaranteed to the *ex*-Sultan in return for the withdrawal of his claims.

6. In conclusion, I desire to express my appreciation of the ability and tact which Mr. Im Thurn has shown in carrying out his mission.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

THE MALDIVE ISLANDS.

No. 87.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P., to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

Ceylon.—No. 267.

Downing street, July 24, 1903.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, as requested in your telegram of the 22nd instant, copies of the enclosures to Sir A. Gordon's despatch No. 2 of the 4th January, 1888, on the subject of affairs in the Maldives.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 87.

Muhammad Muin-ud-din, Sultan of the Maldivé Islands, to Governor the Hon. Sir A.
H. Gordon, G.C.M.G.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—WHEREAS from the earliest times the Sultans of the Maldivé Archipelago have been tributary to and under the protection of the rulers of the Island of Ceylon, and whereas it is our annual custom to send a mission bearing tribute to the Government of Ceylon, now I, Muhammad Muin-ud-din, Sultan of the Maldives, being impressed with the necessity that exists in these present times of placing this fact on record for the better ensuring my subjects and the territories under my dominion from molestation by any foreign State, do hereby acknowledge on behalf of myself, my heirs and successors, the authority of the Sovereign of Great Britain, as represented by the Government of Ceylon, over these Islands; and I further acknowledge that I am not at liberty to enter into any negotiations or treaty regarding them with any foreign State, except through the ruler of Ceylon, and I expressly renounce any intention of doing so.

With the object of preventing future disputes among my people, I am further desirous of being formally installed in the office of Sultan of the Maldivé Islands by the Government of Ceylon, and I request that Your Excellency will cause the necessary confirmation to be made accordingly at an early date, and that this course may in future be considered for the installation of my successors as Sultans of these Islands. I beg to assure Your Excellency that I am ready to enter into any more formal agreement embodying the terms of this declaration should you desire it.

Given under my hand at the Palace of Malé, this Sixteenth day of December, One thousand Eight hundred and Eighty-seven.

MUHAMMAD MUIN-UD-DIN.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 87.

Lieutenant Alfred C. Christopher, Seaforth Highlanders, Aide-de-Camp, to His
Excellency the Governor.

Colombo, December 22, 1887.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to state I arrived at Malé in H.M.S. *Algerine* on the 14th instant, and duly delivered your Excellency's letter to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives that afternoon.

His Highness stated that the reply, which I forward herewith, would be ready on the 17th instant, and on the morning of that day it was handed to me.

The letter is not in Arabic, as the previous communications from the Sultan, the Moonshee hitherto resident at the Court being no longer there, having, I was told, incurred His Highness's displeasure. On learning this I recommended that the letter should be written in Maldivian, but although this language in one form or another is spoken throughout the Islands, neither the Sultan nor any one of his Ministers can write it.

His Highness therefore urgently requested that I would take a reply in English, as in default of Arabic he said he would have "no confidence" (*sic*) in signing a letter written in any other language.

Although I should have preferred to receive a letter written in Arabic or Maldivian, and plainly and repeatedly intimated my wish to that effect, I did not feel myself at liberty to refuse to receive a letter written in English.

This letter was almost a transcript of that drafted by Sir F. Richards, and I was aware that every word and syllable of it was fully understood and had been thoroughly discussed by His Highness and his Ministers.

It did not appear to me that in these circumstances I could with propriety offer further opposition to His Highness's persistent wish on the subject.

I have little reason to doubt that the Sultan would have signed the letter drafted by Sir F. Richards, or written a letter of similar purport after the Admiral's visit, but for the powerful influence of the Moolah and the advice of a Bombay trader.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED C. CHRISTOPHER Lieut.,
Aide-de-Camp.

Enclosure No. 3 in No. 87.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, G.C.M.G., to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives.

Queen's House,
Colombo, December 23, 1887.

I HAVE received with pleasure and satisfaction Your Highness's letter of the 16th instant.

2. I am ready to grant the sanction to your authority which you seek. In the name of Her Majesty the Queen I confirm you as Sultan of the Maldives, promising and engaging to grant the like confirmation to your successors the Sultans of the Maldivé Islands duly succeeding to the throne according to the Maldivian laws and customs of succession.

3. The presents which it is customary to make on such occasions cannot now be prepared in time for conveyance by this opportunity, but will be duly forwarded for Your Highness's acceptance as soon as is possible.

4. I also engage in the name of Her Majesty the Queen that Her Majesty will continue, as in time past, to protect and defend the Maldivé Islands from all foreign enemies whatsoever.

5. Being informed that you have felt some apprehension lest your domestic affairs should be interfered with by the Queen's Government or some of its officers, I cannot hesitate to repeat that I also engage in Her Majesty's name to interfere in no manner in the local affairs of the Maldivé Islands, in either the framing or the administration of the laws, or in any other matter of purely internal concern, nor will I allow any one under any authority so to meddle.

6. Your Highness at the close of your letter, offers to enter into a formal agreement confirmatory of the declarations contained therein should it be desired that you should do so. That is quite unnecessary, as Your Highness only gives expression to that which already exists, and makes no new concession.

May Your Highness enjoy a long and prosperous reign.

I have, &c.,
A. GORDON.

No. 88.

Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., to His Highness Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din.

The Queen's Cottage,
Nuwara Eliya, July 27, 1903.

YOUR HIGHNESS.—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Highness's letter of 26th June, in which you discuss at some length the history of recent occurrences in the Maldivé Islands.

If this Government had deposed Your Highness from the Sultanate, some of your arguments would have had force, but this is not the case. Your Highness has been deposed by your own subjects, and all this Government had to consider was whether that act of deposition was a mere intrigue of a few or really the act of the great majority of Your Highness's people. If the inquiry made by the Lieutenant-Governor had shown that Your Highness had been deposed by an intrigue of a small disaffected party which did not represent the bulk of the population, and if, moreover, it appeared that there had been no maladministration to justify or excuse such a step, I should not have been prepared to recognize Sams-ud-din Khan as Sultan. But even in those circumstances I should not have actively assisted Your Highness to recover your throne, for such an action would have been opposed to our policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of the Maldives, a policy which Your Highness has consistently approved during the period of your rule. I need hardly remind Your Highness that when you ousted your cousin, the present *de facto* Sultan, for whom you were Regent from the Sultanate, this Government did not interfere in his favour. The case would have been different had your misfortune been brought about by a policy or proceedings which had been pressed upon you by this Government, but, as Your Highness knows, the contrary is the case.

The Lieutenant-Governor had my directions, in case his inquiry satisfied him that there had been no maladministration to justify the revolution and that the bulk of the population were in favour of your return to power, to remain until your arrival and to give you moral support in replacing yourself on the throne. But Mr. im Thurn was satisfied by the inquiries which he made from your own brother, the Regent, among others, that the people would not receive you as Sultan, and that they had good reason, because of Your Highness's extravagance, prolonged absences, and other acts of maladministration, for their refusal. In these circumstances there was no use in Mr. im Thurn remaining until your arrival, as he could not have given you even moral support or assistance.

Your Highness states that in the letter which Mr. im Thurn left for you he requested you to return to Colombo. It was not Mr. im Thurn's intention that you should return without landing and satisfying yourself that the people would not accept you as their ruler: on the contrary he had satisfied himself that on landing you would be honourably received. I am sorry that Your Highness so interpreted the letter, but I have to remind you that you are a free agent and are not detained here by the Government. Accordingly, if you really believe that the bulk of your former subjects are willing to receive you as Sultan, you are free to return with your Maldivian Ministers and followers to Malé and recover your throne. I have not yet recognized Sams-ud-din Khan, and do not propose to do so until he has agreed to make what I consider to be adequate arrangements for Your Highness's support.

In your letter under reply there are many inaccuracies and mis-statements, which it is unnecessary for me to correct, as they do not affect the only material question, which is, whether you have any right to expect this Government to replace you on the throne by force.

These exceptions are your suggestion that you returned to Colombo from Egypt and thence to Malé in the belief that you would receive assistance from this Government in regaining your throne. I must remind you that in reply to your telegram I telegraphed to you at Suez stating that I could not actively interfere in your favour, and that both in interviews with the Lieutenant-Governor and myself you were unmistakably and repeatedly told that this Government would not interfere by force, and that it entirely depended on the result of the Lieutenant-Governor's inquiry whether it would use its influence in your favour by refusing to recognize the *de facto* Sultan. You quite clearly understood the intentions of this Government.

Again, you state that in the treaty made "by my eldest brother with the Government of Ceylon such a case as mine was expressly provided for. By the 4th clause of that treaty it was expressly agreed that the Sultan of the Maldivé Islands should be protected from internal difficulties by the English Government," and you appeal to me on the basis of that agreement. There is no such provision in the treaty or agreement in question. But by that agreement it was, on the contrary, engaged in Her Majesty's name that the Ceylon Government should interfere in no manner in the local affairs of the Maldives in either the framing or administration of the laws or in any other matter of purely internal concern.

Your Highness states that you have sent a message by cable to the Secretary of State asking him to suspend his decision on the case until you had laid it fully before him and myself. With this request the Secretary of State has been unable to comply, for on the 14th instant he telegraphed to me approving the proposals made by me in a despatch dated 17th June, which included the recognition as Sultan of Sams-ud-din Khan.

I am unwilling to take this step until a suitable provision has been made by him for your subsistence, and accordingly I propose to depute an officer to Malé, who should be accompanied by Your Highness's representative to arrange this matter. In the meantime I am prepared to continue for another month, by which time a settlement ought to be effected, the allowance which I agreed to make temporarily to Your Highness.

Finally, I must notice the remark contained in your letter under reply to the effect that Your Highness has been "treated as a criminal"; I regret that you should have been induced to allow so unjust and baseless a charge to be made. It is quite inconsistent with the previous statement in the same letter that your hopes had been raised by the honourable reception which you had received. This Government gave Your Highness the means of returning to the Maldives to assert your rights, for you had not the money to do so. It has throughout treated you with courtesy and hospitality. Indeed, I shall always be anxious to continue to you honourable treatment so long as you reside in Ceylon, and to do my best to make your life here agreeable and pleasant.

I should be glad to receive at an early date Your Highness's reply to my proposal that you should send to Malé with my officer a representative authorized to negotiate with Sams-ud-din Khan the question of a suitable allowance.

I have, &c.,

WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 89.

His Highness Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway. G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

"Noorany Villa,"
Kollupitiya, July 31, 1903.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of Your Excellency's kind favour of the 27th instant, for which I am much obliged to Your Excellency.

I have duly noted that Your Excellency has not yet recognized Sams-ud-din Khan as the Sultan of the Maldives, and does not propose to do so until he makes adequate arrangements for my support.

I am thankful to Your Excellency for the proposal made in Your Excellency's letter under reply, but much regret that I am unable to find a suitable person, in whom I can place my confidence, to accompany the officer whom Your Excellency will depute to proceed to Malé to negotiate with Sams-ud-din Khan the question of a suitable and adequate allowance to be made to me. I would, therefore, leave this matter entirely in Your Excellency's hands, as I am sure that Your Excellency will see that a suitable provision will be made for my subsistence.

I appreciate Your Excellency's anxiety to see me treated with courtesy and hospitality and Your Excellency's kind promise to continue the same honourable treatment during my stay here, which has always been agreeable and pleasant to me.

I have, &c.,

MUHAMMAD IMAD-UD-DIN ISKANDAR.

No. 90.

Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.
to the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P.

Miscellaneous.—No. 386.

Ceylon, September 1, 1903.

SIR,—IN continuation of my despatch No. 239 of the 17th June, 1903, on the subject of affairs in the Maldivian Islands, I have the honour to forward for your information copy of a letter received from Sultan Imad-ud-din,^o together with a memorandum thereon by Mr. im Thurn.[†]

2. I attach also copies of further correspondence with the Sultan Imad-ud-din,[‡] and also with the Sultan Sams-ud-din. I do not anticipate that there will be much difficulty in arriving at a satisfactory settlement.

I have, &c.,

WEST RIDGEWAY.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 90.

His Highness Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

HON. SIR,—YOUR letter of the 29th June, 1903, has been received. You wished to know from us what sum the Maldivian Government will pay Muhammad Imad-ud-din, son of our paternal uncle, in the event of his losing the throne. We sent you our reply by letter dated the 19th June. In your above letter (under reply) you say you do not consider our reply a fair one.

* See No. 84.

† See No. 85.

‡ See Nos. 88 and 89.

In the event of a removal of a Sultan it is only customary here to give him food and clothing and other necessaries (in kind) to live like other princes, but never to pay him in money. Such payment (in kind) is now being made or transferred to his brother Manduke Dori Manipul. This is a very ancient custom in force until now. In our previous letter we submitted to you the information about this custom. I regret very much that in our last letter I failed to distinctly communicate to your honour the payable amount as you desired. I now hasten to send this letter with great respect.

What I have to inform your honour by this (letter) is this. I consent and agree without any demur to any amount fixed by the Governor of Ceylon, consistently with the state of this poor weak Government, to be paid to Muhammad Imad-ud-din, the son of my paternal uncle. Moreover, I have written and referred to Hadji Ibrahim Didi Effendi, the husband of my aunt (or mother-in-law), now residing in Colombo. He will give your honour a detailed account of the actual state of affairs of this Government and its abject poverty.

In the matter of Muhammad Imad-ud-din, I pray that your honour will be graciously pleased to take into consideration the reduced condition of this Government, and to support us with your great justice and most generous and complete kindness of heart. The condition of this Government is not an unknown matter to your honour. Because of the reduced circumstances of this Government, they pay to its ruler monthly Rs. 550 worth of food and clothing.

I wish to be informed as to how the sum payable should be remitted to Muhammad Imad-ud-din, the son of my paternal uncle, whether through your Government or through our agent at Colombo. Further, let me know the actual amount of his debts which I promised to pay off, as well as the amount paid to him by the Ceylon Government until such time as his expenses are paid for by this Government.

I beg to assure your honour distinctly and fully of my loyalty to the powerful British Government and to abide by your advice.

It is not by the strength and wealth of this Government that I carry on my Government, saved from its enemies, foreign and domestic; it is from the Ceylon Government alone that I received help and support.

Wherefore I pray His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon to be unto me as above.

Long life to you.

Malé, Maldives, 22 Rapiul Thani, 1321, Ijri (18th July, 1903).

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 90.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to His Highness Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar.

No. 013436.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, August 24, 1903.

SIR,—I AM directed by His Excellency the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th July last on the subject of the payments to be paid by the Maldivian Government on account of the Sultan Imad-ud-din.

2. I am to reply that the Governor is willing that the allowance to be made to Sultan Imad-ud-din by the Maldivian Government should be reduced to Rs. 25 per diem, which is the least sum on which a man in Sultan Imad-ud-din's position can live in Colombo.

3. His Excellency considers it very desirable that Sultan Imad-ud-din should not under the circumstances return to the Maldives, where his presence would certainly lead to complaints and perhaps disturbances and the consequent reluctant intervention of the British Government.

4. Indeed, taking all the circumstances into consideration, the Governor desires to suggest for your consideration that it would be better for the Maldivian Government to offer to make the allowance Rs. 30 instead of Rs. 25 per diem, on the express condition that the Sultan Imad-ud-din should at once abdicate. His Excellency would be glad to have your views on this point at an early date.

5. I am to add that the following advances made to Sultan Imad-ud-din by the Ceylon Government or on its guarantee will have to be repaid by the Maldivian Government, and any further debts which the Sultan Imad-ud-din may hereafter show to the satisfaction of the Ceylon Government to have been justifiably incurred in maintaining his position while on the throne should also be made good by the Maldivian Government:—

(1) Loan to Sultan Imad-ud-din by Mr. Noorbhai, guaranteed by the Ceylon Government, Rs. 5,000.

(2) Cost of sending Sultan Imad-ud-din to Malé by the ss. Ileafee Rs. 2,000.

(3) Allowance of Rs. 30 per diem paid to Sultan from 23rd May, 1903.

6. The Governor will be glad to have an early and full reply to this letter, and desires me to say that if it is not possible to settle the matter by letter, he proposes to depute a British officer to Malé to arrange a settlement.

7. I am to add that as soon as a satisfactory settlement is made the Governor will be glad to recognize you as Sultan.

I am, &c.,
EVERARD IM THURN.

No. 91.

Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

WE beg to inform your honour that your letter dated the 24th August, 1903, written under the direction of His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon, duly reached us.

It was stated that His Excellency the Governor was pleased to reduce the daily allowance to His Highness Muhammad Imad-ud-din to Rs. 25 per day as being appropriate for one in his position in Colombo.

2. We request His Excellency to look to the state of our poor and weak Government with an eye of compassion and pity, and fix the daily allowance to His Highness Muhammad Imad-ud-din at Rs. 20 per day as long as he stays in Colombo, for this is the utmost that this poor Government can afford, as it is very poor at present.

If His Excellency the Governor is not inclined to accede to this request, we are prepared to yield to the decision of His Excellency the Governor to pay at Rs. 25 per day.

3. We had written to say that we had no objection if His Highness Muhammad Imad-ud-din wished to return and reside in the Maldives, but if His Excellency the Governor does not approve of it at present we also yield to that view.

4. We have agreed to pay the amounts as stated in your letter, and the Maldivian Government has instructed Haji Ibrahim Didi Effendi, who is now in Colombo, to pay those debts, and he will pay the same to the Government of Ceylon. You had also written regarding some other debts which His Highness Muhammad Imad-ud-din had incurred during his Sultanate to maintain his position, and if that debt is also established, yes! We will see about it after the same has been proved, and at a time this Government will be in a position to bear the same, and if this Government was bound to pay the same.

5. I hope this matter ends with this letter, and it is not necessary to send a British officer from there to this place for a matter of this kind, and I wish to finish this matter as early as possible, so that there may be no inconvenience to the Government of Ceylon.

6. I am glad that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to recognize me as Sultan of the Maldivian Islands on the finishing of this matter soon, and I thank His Excellency for it very much.

Dated Malé, Maldives, 11th day, month of Jamaduthany 1321 (4th September, 1903).

MUHAMMAD SAMS-UD-DIN ISKANDAR.

No. 92.

His Highness Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

Kollupitiya, September 4, 1903.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—I SHOULD take it as a great favour if Your Excellency would permit me, in continuation of my reply to Your Excellency's letter of the 29th July last and of the 2nd instant, to impress upon Your Excellency how completely I have fallen a victim to the perfidy, intrigue, and inordinate ambition of Ministers.

2. I beg leave to lay before Your Excellency the fact that the monthly expenses of my maintenance amount to close about Rs. 2,000, and to pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to cause such arrangement to be made as would be commensurate with my wants. Being assured of the unsatisfactory reply which would be vouchsafed to Your Excellency by Sams-ud-din Khan at the instigation of his present advisers, whose attitude towards me and their antecedents are not unknown to Your Excellency, with respect to my allowance, I am confident that Your Excellency would see that the allowance asked for in my letter is acceded to by them, as unless this sum, which is the actual expenditure I have to incur for my maintenance, is allowed, I shall find it difficult to meet my ordinary wants.

3. I beg also to ask that arrangements may be made for the payment of the debts and wages due by the Maldivian Government to British subjects. The debt left in this respect by my predecessors was a large one. But in my time I reduced it considerably. I trust steps are taken for wiping it off entirely.

4. Lastly, I would beg that the Maldivian Government as it now exists may be directed to recall those of my Ministers and subjects who were lately banished to far away atolls. The sole cause of their banishment was their steadfast loyalty to me. I request also that some of my suite who are with me here and whom I wish to send back may be allowed to return to their homes and to live there without molestation.

Trusting that these requests will receive due consideration at Your Excellency's hands, and with gratitude for the sympathy Your Excellency has been pleased to express towards me,

I remain, &c.

MUHAMMAD IMAD-UD-DIN.

No. 93.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to His Highness Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, September 12, 1903.

SIR,—I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant on the subject of the monthly allowance to be paid to you by the Maldivian Government and the settlement of certain debts incurred by them.

2. In reply I am to inform you that His Excellency the Governor is not prepared to press the Maldivian Government to make you a larger allowance than Rs. 25 per diem, and that he regrets he is therefore unable to accede to your wishes.

3. As regards the settlement by the Maldivian Government of debts which you state have been incurred by the Government, I am to state that His Excellency the Governor will be glad to have a statement of the just debts incurred by you, as Sultan, up to the time of your arrival in Colombo from Suez.

4. I am to add that His Excellency does not consider that His Majesty's Government would be justified in interfering with the affairs of the Maldivian Government in the matter of the recall of the Maldivian subjects who are alleged to have been exiled. His Excellency will, however, strongly recommend to Sams-ud-din Khan that it would be desirable that, as a concomitant to the final settlement of the question, a general amnesty should be granted to all *bonâ fide* Maldivian subjects.

I am, &c.,

A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 94.

His Highness Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

"Noorani Villa,"
Kollupitiya, September 18, 1903.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 017636 of the 12th instant, for which I beg to thank you.

In reply to paragraph No. 2, I beg most respectfully to submit to His Excellency the Governor that the allowance of Rs. 25 per diem offered by the Maldivian Government is not sufficient for me, and it is hardly adequate to enable me to settle my private matters in a satisfactory manner. I would, therefore, feel extremely obliged if His Excellency will be pleased to see his way to interfere and arrange, if possible, that a more suitable allowance, as hitherto, be paid to me, which request, I trust, His Excellency will be so kind as to comply with.

Regarding paragraph No. 3, I may mention that I have heard from my brothers at Malé that the debts in question have been partly settled by the Maldivian Government, and I am now applying to them for a detailed statement of the debts incurred by me, and on receipt of same I shall not fail to submit same to His Excellency's information.

With reference to the last paragraph, I am much pleased to note that His Excellency will strongly recommend to Sams-ud-din Khan to grant a general amnesty to all *bonâ fide* Maldivian subjects.

I have, &c.,

MUHAMMAD IMAD-UD-DIN.

No. 95.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P., to Governor Sir J. West Ridgeway,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

Ceylon.—No. 358.

Downing street, September 25, 1903.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 386 of the 1st September on the subject of affairs in the Maldives.

2. I hope to hear shortly that satisfactory arrangements have been made for the maintenance of the *ex-Sultan*.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 96.

His Highness Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din to Governor Sir J. West Ridgeway,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

"Noorani Villa,"
Kollupitiya, October 17, 1903.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I HAVE the honour to tender to Your Excellency my best thanks for the audience Your Excellency accorded to me and Sultana Shariffa at the Queen's House, which we have appreciated to a great extent.

I beg that Your Excellency will be kind enough to accelerate and settle the question of my pension, so as to enable me to take my family, which is in poor health at present, to Egypt under medical advice.

I am, &c.,

MUHAMMAD IMAD-UD-DIN.

No. 97.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to Sams-ud-din Effendi.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, October 19, 1903.

SIR,—I AM directed by His Excellency the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 4th and 5th September, 1903.

2. In reply I am to inform you that the sums specified in the enclosed statement amounting to Rs. 10,930 have been received from Ibrahim Didi Effendi as from the Maldivian Government, and that Ibrahim Didi Effendi has further undertaken to pay, month by month, as from the Maldivian Government, the daily allowance of Rs. 25 to Sultan Imad-ud-din from the 1st October, 1903.

3. I am to remind you, however, that the question of what further debts were justly incurred by the Sultan Imad-ud-din while recognized as Sultan of the Maldives is still outstanding; and I am to state that His Excellency the Governor considers that the two sums amounting to Rs. 20,000 which were advanced by Mr. T. A. J. Noorbhai to Sultan Imad-ud-din for his expenses during his stay at Suez, while he was still legitimately Sultan of the Maldives, should, in common justice, be paid by the Maldivian Government. His Excellency will be glad under the circumstances to hear that you have arranged to pay, through Ibrahim Didi or otherwise, this further just debt of Rs. 20,000, and also that you have proclaimed a general amnesty for all Maldivians banished from the Islands on political grounds.

THE MALDIVE ISLANDS.

4. I am to add that as soon as the Governor receives a satisfactory answer to these two suggestions His Excellency will be pleased at once to formally recognize you as Sultan of the Maldives.

I am, &c.,
EVERARD IM THURN,
Colonial Secretary.

Statement referred to.

	Rs.
I.—Amount advanced by Mr. Noorbhai under guarantee from the Ceylon Government to the Sultan Imad-ud-din	5,000
II.—Amount paid by the Ceylon Government to Mr. Noorbhai for one trip of the steamer "Illeafee" to Malé on the 15th May, 1903, and subsequent days	2,000
III.—Amount advanced by the Ceylon Government to the Sultan Imad-ud-din from 23rd May, 1903, to 30th September, 1903 (inclusive), at Rs. 30 per diem	3,930
Total	<u>10,930</u>

No. 98.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to His Highness Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, October 26, 1903.

SIR,—I AM directed by His Excellency the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th October.

2. In reply to paragraph 2 of your letter I am to inform you that it has been settled that you should be granted an allowance of Rs. 25 per diem by the Maldivian Government, payable through this Government.

3. I am to add that in the event of your proceeding to Egypt this Government will try to arrange that the allowance should be paid to you through the Egyptian Government.

I am, &c.,
A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 99.

His Highness Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

"Noorani Villa,"
Kollupitiya, October 28, 1903.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I HAVE duly received the Hon. the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 26th October, and have now the honour to express my best thanks to Your Excellency for all the trouble and attention paid for the due settlement of my allowance, which I note will be paid to me through this Government.

I further note that on my proceeding to Egypt the Ceylon Government will make arrangements that my future allowances will be paid to me through the Egyptian Government.

I may mention that I intend leaving for Egypt with my family by the end of next month, and before my doing so I shall not fail to acquaint the Ceylon Government the date of my departure.

I have, &c.,
MUHAMMAD IMAD-UD-DIN.

No. 100.

His Highness Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din to Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.

"Noorani Villa,"
Kollupitiya, November 9, 1903.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I HAVE the honour to inform Your Excellency that I will now be leaving Ceylon by the ss. City of Calcutta on the 12th instant instead of the ss. Silesia.

I take this opportunity of tendering Your Excellency my heartfelt thanks for all the favours received at Your Excellency's hands, and for the kind attention paid by Your Excellency to my request in giving the necessary instructions to the Colonial Treasurer to pay me in advance the allowance due to me for the current and next months, which I have duly received.

I shall thank Your Excellency to kindly let me know on what day and at what time it will be convenient for Your Excellency to accord me an audience, so as to enable me, before my departure, to pay my respects and wish "good-bye" to Your Excellency.

I shall also feel greatly obliged if Your Excellency will be pleased to give the necessary instructions to the Egyptian Government to pay me in future the allowances due to me monthly at Suez, as I will be residing there with my father-in-law Abdul Rahman Bey Kamy until further notice, and in the event of any change in my address I shall not fail to acquaint the Ceylon Government of same.

Thanking Your Excellency again for the very many favours bestowed on me and for all the kindness shown to me,

I have, &c.,
MUHAMMAD IMAD-UD-DIN

THE MALDIVE ISLANDS.

99

No. 101.

Governor the Right Hon. Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I.,
to the Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, M.P.

Miscellaneous.—No. 488.

The Pavilion, Kandy,
Ceylon, November 11, 1903.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Chamberlain's despatch No. 358 of 25th September last, in paragraph 2 of which he expressed the hope of hearing shortly as to the arrangements made for the maintenance of the *ex*-Sultan of the Maldives.

2. I have now to report that the present Sultan Sams-ud-din has paid an allowance of Rs. 30 a day up to 30th September, and has undertaken to pay monthly hereafter at the rate of Rs. 25 a day. He has also paid the sum of Rs. 5,000 which Mr. Noorbhai advanced on the guarantee of this Government, and the Rs. 2,000 being the cost of sending the *ex*-Sultan to Malé by the ss. Ileafee.

3. In justice to Mr. Noorbhai, I am endeavouring to induce Sultan Sams-ud-din to repay a further sum of Rs. 20,000 advanced by him to meet expenses in connection with the visit of the *ex*-Sultan to Egypt, although the repayment was not guaranteed by the Ceylon Government. As soon as this transaction is settled I propose formally to recognize Sams-ud-din.

4. I regret, however, to have to add that the *ex*-Sultan evinces no inclination formally to abdicate the throne. He, however, proposes shortly to retire with his newly-married wife to Egypt.

I have, &c.,

WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 102.

His Highness Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 19th October, 1903. In the third paragraph of that letter it was stated that His Excellency considered that the Maldivian Government should pay the sum of Rs. 20,000 sent by T. A. J. Noorbhai to His Highness Imad-ud-din at Suez, while the latter was still the Sultan of the Maldives.

In reply we beg to state, with due deference to His Excellency's opinion, that we had mentioned in our letter dated 5th September that we would try to pay after proof all such debts that we would be bound to pay: and we now beg to state the law which governs such payments here—that every debt that was incurred in the interest of the Government or the subjects, and not debts incurred to satisfy one's selfish needs, is permitted by law to be paid by the Government, and this law has been in force for years.

Since I have been appointed to the Sultanate by the help of God and your Government, we have found out that the debts incurred are so great that this Government finds itself unable to pay owing to its poverty, all the debts having been incurred by Imad-ud-din from foreign traders, and Noorbhai among them, who were trading in these islands, while he was Sultan. As they were proved and lawful we undertook their payment to the creditors.

It was also stated in the letter under reference that His Excellency the Governor would be glad to hear of a general pardon to those who have been exiled on political grounds. We beg most respectfully to state that our law permits such pardoning if we see them inclined to be peaceable and loyal; but we still find them obstinate, and we fear trouble from them if we pardoned them before we are recognized by your Government as Sultan of the Maldives—and they are the three individuals mentioned in our letter dated 7th Safar 1321, and they are the head and leaders of disorder, and they were exiled at the request of the Government officials and the inhabitants. At present there is no trouble or disorder here, but peace and safety, and we thank God for the same.

And we hope that His Excellency the Governor, in view of the law of this country, will not wish that we should suffer loss and have us to violate the law, whereby great harm would accrue to this poor Government: and we beg that His Excellency the Governor and the British Government will accept our explanation and protect and treat us with favour for ever, and not help in a matter which would affect us adversely. May God prevent such a calamity.

Signed (Seal).

MUHAMMAD SAMS-UD-DIN ISKANDAR.

Malé, 7th Rawalan 1321 (27th November, 1903).

No. 103.

The Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, M.P., to Governor Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G.
Ceylon.—No. 454.

Downing street, December 4, 1903.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir West Ridgeway's despatch No. 488 of the 11th November informing me of the arrangements which have been made for the maintenance of the *ex*-Sultan of the Maldives.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED LYTTTELTON.

No. 104.

Ibrahim Didi to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

123, Dam street,
Pettah, December 16, 1903.

SIR,—I AM desired by Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to request of you the favour of his being recognized as Sultan by the Ceylon Government completed as early as possible.

Such recognition, it is submitted, would facilitate the settlement of the loan of Rs 20,000, made by Mr T. A. J. Noorbhai to *ex*-Sultan Imad-ud-din. On behalf of the Maldivian Government I undertake to settle the said loan in instalments within two years from date.

Requesting once more that the recognition as Sultan by the Ceylon Government of the present Ruler of the Maldives may be made with the least possible delay.

I beg, &c.,

A. IBRAHIM DIDDI.

No. 105.

His Highness Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din to Governor Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G.

MAY God exalt his position and increase his prosperity and army.

Our former Sultans and yours always enjoyed their mutual goodwill and confidence, We also desire the continuance of the same relationship and more of it, and wish that you will not sympathize with or help those who are hostile to us. Also should any "kundra" boats belonging to our subjects go astray and reach there, we beg you to render them all assistance and send them back to us.

We have sent our annual tribute to Your Excellency in the buggalow Garya Fathus-atam in charge of our Ambassador Amir Ahamed Didi Kuda Dori Mena Kilegifa; and when he arrives kindly receive him hospitably, and overlook and forgive any shortcomings on his part, and start him back by the first opportunity.

We have desired him to lay before Your Excellency certain circumstances regarding us, and we trust that Your Excellency will listen to them favourably with your usual courtesy, and help us with your advice. May Your Excellency live long.

MUHAMMAD SAMS-UD-DIN ISKANDAR.

Malé, 11th Sawwal 1321 (31st December, 1903).

No. 106.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to A. Ibrahim Didi Effendi.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, January 11, 1904.

SIR,—WITH reference to my letter of the 12th November, 1903, I am directed to request you to pay into the General Treasury at Colombo at the end of each calendar month the subsistence allowance of Rs. 25 per diem granted to Muhammad Imad-ud-din Effendi, *ex-Sultan* of the Maldives, by the Maldivian Government.

2. I am to inform you that the Egyptian Government has been requested to pay the allowance on behalf of the Ceylon Government during the *ex-Sultan's* domicile in Egypt.

I am, &c.,

A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 107.

Governor Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar.

The King's Pavilion,
Kandy, January 13, 1904.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE the honour to inform Your Highness that I have much pleasure in recognizing you as Sultan of the Maldivian Islands, and I take this opportunity of assuring you of my desire for the continuance of the good feelings which have existed between the representative in Ceylon of His Majesty King Edward VII. and the Rulers of the Maldivian Islands.

2. I trust that you may be long spared to rule over the Maldives, and that your dominions may enjoy prosperity and peace.

I have, &c.,

HENRY A. BLAKE.

No. 108.

Speech of Governor Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to the Ambassador of His Highness Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar at the King's Pavilion, Kandy, January 29, 1904.

HIS HIGHNESS Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar having been chosen by the will of the Maldivian people, I, on behalf of the British Government, recognize him as the rightful Sovereign.

I hope that the long period of unrest in the Islands will now come to an end, and that the people will work together for the common good.

I strongly advise that in political matters interference by foreign traders shall not be permitted, and that equal advantages and equal business opportunities shall be given alike to all traders. I also recommend that as soon as possible, when it can be done with safety, the Maldivian subjects who were opposed to Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar and were banished shall be forgiven and restored to their rights on condition that they live as loyal and peaceable subjects of His Highness.

As regards the former Sultan, Imad-ud-din, the Maldivian people must remember that he was for many years recognized by them as lawful Regent, and as Sultan for the time being, and he was also so recognized by the British Government; therefore the Maldivian people have, through their Sultan His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar and his Ministers, rightly recognized that they are bound to pay the just debts of the late Sultan when he was on the throne. Some of those debts the present Maldivian Government have paid, but there is at least one debt outstanding of Rs 20,000 due to the merchant Noorbhai which the Maldivian Government have promised to pay, and now that His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar has been recognized by the British Government, this debt should be paid at the earliest possible moment.

The British Government, through the Governor of Ceylon, will always be ready to help with advice and guidance for the proper regulation of Maldivian affairs, and the first advice that I now give is that this debt shall be promptly paid. If convenient to the Maldivian Government, it may be paid through the Government of Ceylon.

It must not be forgotten that the late Sultan owed most of his troubles to his prolonged absences from his Government. I hope that the Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar will take warning from this: that His Highness will remain in his own Islands and work for the good of his people, and that he will not leave the Islands without first informing and consulting the Governor of Ceylon.

I request that you will convey to His Highness the Sultan my acknowledgments for the tribute that has been presented to me by his Ambassador; presents for the acceptance of His Highness will be prepared by the time that you are ready to return to the Maldives.

I most cordially wish for His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar a long and peaceful rule, resulting in the happiness and prosperity of the Maldivian people.

No. 109.

Governor Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar,
Sultan of the Maldives.

Queen's Cottage,
Nuwara Eliya, February 11, 1904.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE received and thank you for your letter of 31st December by the hand of your Ambassador Amir Ahamed Didi Kuda Dori Mena Kilegifan, and have also received from him the presents which you sent by his hand.

The said Ambassador came to me at my Pavilion at Kandy, and I at once handed to him for delivery into Your Highness's hands a letter in which, on behalf of His Britannic Majesty King Edward VII., I have recognized you as lawful Sultan of the Maldive Islands. I also spoke many words of good advice to him, and gave him a written copy of those words to carry to Your Highness.

I hope and believe that you will listen to my words, and that the friendly relations which have always existed between the Government of Ceylon and the Maldive Islands may long continue.

I send by the hands of your Ambassador certain gifts, which I hope Your Highness will accept.

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

No. 110.

Ahmed Didi to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Malé, Maldives, February 20, 1904.

HONOURED SIR,—I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have arrived here safely on the 17th instant from Colombo, which port I left on the 15th by the ss. Amra.

I have duly presented to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives the presents and the letters which were entrusted to me by the Ceylon Government, and His Highness has accepted them with the greatest pleasure, and thanks His Excellency the Governor and the Government of Ceylon.

Also I have to inform your honour that His Highness the Sultan is doing well, and the people are enjoying peace and prosperity under the present *regime*.

E. AHAMED DIDI,
Maldivian Ambassador.

No. 111.

Governor Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, M.P.

The Queen's House, Colombo,
Ceylon, February 25, 1904.

Miscellaneous.—No. 78.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 454 of 4th December, 1903, and in continuation of Sir West Ridgeway's despatch No. 488 of 11th November, 1903, to report as follows on the, I trust, final settlement of the recent Maldivian troubles.

2. When my predecessor left Ceylon he had suspended formal recognition of Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar as the new Sultan of the Maldives pending the receipt of a reply to a letter which had been addressed from this Government to that of the Maldives suggesting that a further sum of Rs. 20,000 which the *ex-Sultan* Imad-ud-din had borrowed while he was still Sultan from the merchant Noorbhai, without, however, any guarantee from the Ceylon Government, should be repaid by the present Maldivian authorities. In the same letter Sir West Ridgeway also suggested to the Sultan that he should issue an amnesty to all those who had been banished from the Maldives in connection with the revolution which substituted Sultan Sams-ud-din for Sultan Imad-ud-din on the throne.

3. Communication between Ceylon and the Maldives is slow and precarious, and it was not till 10th December last that the reply from the Sultan Sams-ud-din was received. In that reply* a translation of which is enclosed, His Highness, without absolutely declining to pay the Rs. 20,000 to Mr. Noorbhai, somewhat demurred to the justice of the State being called upon to pay; and as regards the amnesty, he represented that it would involve too great a risk of further disturbance to allow the banished persons to return to Malé at present.

4. The latter statement appeared to me well founded; and as regards the debt in question, the representative in Ceylon of the Sultan assured me that the Sultan would pay it as soon as he could get together the money, but that until His Highness was recognized by the British Government he was hardly regarded by his people as actual Sultan, and that His Highness consequently found it difficult to obtain control of sufficient funds for even current purposes and impossible to command sufficient for the payment of this extraordinary debt. I was advised that there was a good deal of truth in this statement also.

5. I therefore determined to make formal recognition of the Sultan Sams-ud-din in accordance with the authority given in your despatch No. 454 of 4th December, 1903.

* See No. 102.

6. Meanwhile the annual embassy from the Maldives had arrived, and the Ambassador was. I was informed, hesitating as to presenting himself till formal recognition of his Sovereign had been made.

7. I therefore sent for the Ambassador to Kandy, and in handing him a formal letter,* of which copy is enclosed, of recognition of the new Sultan, I addressed him in words of which I subsequently gave him a copy for conveyance to Malé with the letter of recognition. A copy of my speech to the Ambassador is annexed for your information.† In it I urged on the Sultan fair treatment of the foreign merchants at Malé, and more especially the payment as soon as possible of the above-mentioned debt to Mr. Noorbhai; I also urged that every care should be used to preserve peace in the Maldives, and that the Sultan should not quit the Islands without first consulting the Government of Ceylon.

8. The Ambassador then delivered a further letter from the Sultan (copy enclosed) and the customary tribute.‡

9. I have further to report that on the 15th instant the Ambassador left Ceylon on his return to the Maldives, carrying with him the presents which it is usual for the Governor of Ceylon to send on such occasions to the Sultan of the Maldives.

10. Ibrahim Didi, a former Prime Minister of the Maldivian Government, who has now for some years been living in Ceylon, in consequence of the troubled state of Malé, returned to the Islands with the Ambassador, and will, I trust, settle down there quietly and—as being undoubtedly the ablest man of his countrymen—exercise a wholesome and restraining influence.

11. I sincerely trust that the trouble in the Maldives may now be considered at an end.

HENRY A. BLAKE.

NO. 112.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to A. Ibrahim Didi.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, March 7, 1904.

SIR.—I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th February intimating that the Maldivian Government has arranged to pay this Government the allowance of Rs. 25 per day granted to Muhammad Imad-ud-din Effendi, *ex-Sultan* of the Maldives, by the Maldivian Government, through Messrs. E. G. Adamally & Co. of Fourth Cross street, Colombo.

2. I am to inform you that a despatch has been received from Lord Cromer intimating that the payment of the allowance to the *ex-Sultan* cannot be dealt with by the Egyptian Government, and under the circumstances arrangements have been made with the agent of Messrs. Thomas Cook & Sons in Cairo to make the payment monthly. Messrs. Cook & Sons will pay the allowance direct to the *ex-Sultan* at the end of each month at the current rate of exchange. They will charge an agency commission of half per cent. for the transaction, and I am to state that His Excellency the Governor has decided that this commission should be paid by the Maldivian Government.

3. I am to request you to arrange for the payment of the commission at the same time as the monthly allowance.

I am, &c.,
A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

NO. 113.

The Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, M.P., to Governor Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G.

Ceylon.—No. 92.

Downing street, March 18, 1904.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 78 of the 25th ultimo reporting your recognition of Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar as Sultan of the Maldives, and to inform you that I approve your action in the matter.

I have, &c.,
ALFRED LYTTTELTON.

NO. 114.

His Highness Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar to Governor Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G.

AFTER tendering to Your Excellency due praise and respect and thanks, we beg to inform Your Excellency that your favoured letters dated the 13th, 23rd, 26th January, and 11th February, 1904, which were sent in the hands of our Ambassador Amir Ahamed Didi Kuda Dori Mena Kilegifan reached us, together with the presents, which were kindly sent as a token of goodwill and fruits of friendship between the Sultans of the Maldives and the Governors of Ceylon from the past, and we accepted those presents with great pleasure.

A perusal of the contents of the said letters gave us unbounded pleasure and continued satisfaction, for they indicated the direction of our goodwill and friendship and the coming to an understanding and the attaining of our object. So we praised God and gave Your Excellency our heartfelt thanks and to those who maintain an attitude of friendship to the British rule. As you honoured me by recognizing me as the Sultan of the Maldivian Islands, it is our hope that the same recognition will be extended to us by the British Government by the continuance of its protection and friendship.

We further beg to inform you that our Ambassador handed to us a copy of a letter of congratulation and wise counsel which Your Excellency gave him at the time he called on Your Excellency and explained to me as much as was necessary, and we thank Your Excellency for those good advices, and repeat to Your Excellency our wish to act in conformity with them to the best of our ability. Hoping that Your Excellency will continue to show us the same favour, and wishing you all prosperity,

I have, &c.,

MUHAMMAD SAMS-UD-DIN ISKANDAR.

Malé, Maldives, 15th Moharram 1322 (1st April, 1904).

* See No. 107.

† See No. 108.

‡ See No. 105.

THE MALDIVE ISLANDS.

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No. 115.

A. Ibrahim Didi to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Malé, Maldives, April 1, 1904.

HONoured SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 04459 of the 7th March, 1904.

In reply, I have to inform your honour that the Maldivian Government has agreed to pay the agency commission of half per cent. which Messrs. Thos. Cook & Sons charge for the payment monthly of the *ex-Sultan's* allowance, and that the Maldivian Government has written to Messrs. E. G. Adamally & Co. of Fourth Cross street to pay the agency commission at the same time as the monthly allowance.

I have, &c.,

A. IBRAHIM DIDI,
Prime Minister.

No. 116.

The Lieutenant-Governor to Ibrahim Didi Effendi.

Temple Trees,
Colombo, June 9, 1904.

THE Lieutenant-Governor of Ceylon presents his compliments to Ibrahim Didi Effendi, and would be glad to be informed when arrangements will be made to pay the sum of Rs. 20,000, which he, Ibrahim Didi Effendi, when he left Ceylon for Malé, undertook that the Maldivian Government should pay to Mr. T. A. J. Noorbhai.

The Lieutenant-Governor has heard rumours that there is again some unrest among the people of Malé. He trusts these rumours are not true, but would be glad to have a clear assurance on this point. He also desires to point out that it will be very satisfactory and will, he is sure, tend to the continuance of a state of quiet in the Maldives if the above-mentioned debt, justly due to Mr. Noorbhai, is discharged at the earliest possible date.

EVERARD IM THURN,
Lieut.-Governor.

No. 117.

A. Ibrahim Didi Effendi to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Malé, Maldives, July 11, 1904.

HONoured SIR.—WITH reference to your letter dated 9th June, 1904, I have the honour to inform you that according to my letter to your honour dated 16th December, 1903,* in which I undertook on behalf of the Maldivian Government to settle the loan of Rs. 20,000 made by Mr. T. A. J. Noorbhai to the *ex-Sultan* Imad-ud-din within two years, (and that) the Maldivian Government has proposed and arranged to pay through the Ceylon Government Rs. 10,000, one-half of the said debt, at the end of the current year and the balance Rs. 10,000 to pay in December, 1905.

The Maldivian Government would have been glad to clear off the above debt at once, or at an early date, if the Government is in a position to do so.

Respecting the rumours heard by your honour that there is again some unrest among the people of Malé, I have to inform you that these rumours are quite untrue, and nothing but tranquillity and happiness reigns among the Maldivians, and the Islands are prospering.

I have, &c.,

A. IBRAHIM DIDI,
Prime Minister.

* See No. 104.

1908, GORDON-BENNETT, JAMES.

- IN: CEYLON OBSERVER, Newspaper, 22 & 27 Jan. and 3 & 17 Feb. Colombo 1908.
- IN: ROBINS LAWSON, Mrs. An English Lady's visit to the Maldives. Colombo 1920.
- IN: BELL, HARRY CHARLES PURVIS, The Maldive Islands. Report on a visit to Male. Colombo 1921.

JAMES GORDON-BENNETT, the owner to the famous newspaper "The New York Herald", was in the Maldiv capital Male in the middle of Jan 1908. He sailed with his own steam-yacht "LYSISTRATA" (from 1901 to 1913), then the world's biggest and most luxurious private ship, 100 man crew. The three above mentioned sources contain the only information about this visit that I have been able to collect until March 1995. In CEYLON OBSERVER the Maldiv Islands are not mentioned, but I am convinced that BENNETT visited Male on his way to Singapore, and not on his way back to Suez. [ENGLISH]

1). CEYLON OBSERVER, 22 Jan, 1908.

Yacht "LYSISTRATA" due in Colombo With Mr. Gordon Bennett and Party. The yacht "LYSISTRATA" with Mr. Gordon Bennett, proprietor of the "New York Herald" and party, is expected in Colombo shortly from Cairns. The yacht is quite a new and belongs to Mr. Bennett who is a widely known yachtsman. Captain Morrison, of New York Yacht Club, is commander of the yacht which is on its way to the far East.

2). CEYLON OBSERVER, 27 Jan, 1908.

The "LYSISTRATA" brings a distinguished French Party. The beautiful new yacht "LYSISTRATA" has arrived in Colombo Harbour, at the end of her maiden trip from France to the East, bringing her owner Mr. Gordon Bennett, proprietor of the "New York Herald", and a distinguished party, which it would not be difficult to associate with the presence here of the ex-Emperess Eugenie. The party includes: Duc d' Eboli, Baroness and Master de Renter and Governess Duc and Duchess Camastra and Mr. P. Matelliell. On boarding the yacht this afternoon, an Observer Representative learned that Mr Bennett intends staying in Colombo a while, and that he will probably make a tour of the island. He may then go further East and will return home this way via Suez. The yacht is a one master, of 1,942 tons, and is 300 ft. long. She carries two "quick firers" and a crew of about 100 man, all told.

3). CEYLON OBSERVER, 3 Feb, 1908.

The yacht "LYSISTRATA". Mr. Gordon Bennett visiting Kandy. The yacht "LYSISTRATA" belonging to Mr Gordon Bennett, will remain in port till the 20th instant, and in the intervall Mr. Gordon Bennett and party will visit Kandy leaving Colombo this week.

4). CEYLON OBSERVER, 17 Feb, 1908.

Departure of the "LYSISTRATA". Mr. Gordon Bennett's yacht "LYSISTRATA" which arrived here on the 27th of last month, with its owner and party, sailed yesterday for Singapore.

5). ROBINS LAWSON, Mrs. An English Lady's visit to the Maldives. P.10. Colombo 1920.

"The crowd followed us instead, and I found myself the chief object of interest; for, excepting an American lady of the Gordon-Bennett party who visited Male some years ago, I appeared to be the only white woman seen on the islands for very many years."

6). BELL, HARRY CHARLES PURVIS, The Maldive Islands. P.55. Footnote *. Colombo 1921.

"Even a Motor Car is said to have been once landed, when the American Gordon-Bennett party visited the Island in their Steam Yacht."

The ex-Emperess EUGENIE was the wife to the former French Emperor Ludvig Napoleon III. She lived 1826-1920, and made after 1873 as widow, many journeys to faraway places.

The "New York Yacht Club" where James GORDON-BENNETT was Commodore 1871-1874, and 1884-1885, has nothing to inform about his stay 1908 at the MALDIVES.

This vague information about James Gordon-Bennett and his steam-yacht "LYSISTRATA" visit to Male in mid Jan, 1908, I have included here in the hope that the reader might have more news or particulars about the event. If there is any person who has more information and / or photos about these stay in the MALDIVES, please contact me, L. Vilgon.

1931 . MALDIVE CENSUS .

IN: The original "Maldivian Census 1931" manuscript was taken by ABDUL HAMEED DIDI, and completed in 15th of Dec, 1935. It is not made in accordance with the Ceylon Census 1931, but on a Maldivian initiative. The "Census 1931" has never been published, and is accordingly not much known. A typewritten copy was made the 3 of May 1979 in "Majlis for Maldivian History and Culture", Male. [L. Vilgon files.] [ENGLISH]

Foreword to the typewritten copy of the "Census Manuscript 1931".

"No honest historian can take part with - or against - the forces he has to study. To him even the extinction of the human race should be merely a fact to be grouped with other vital statistics." Henry Brooke Adams.

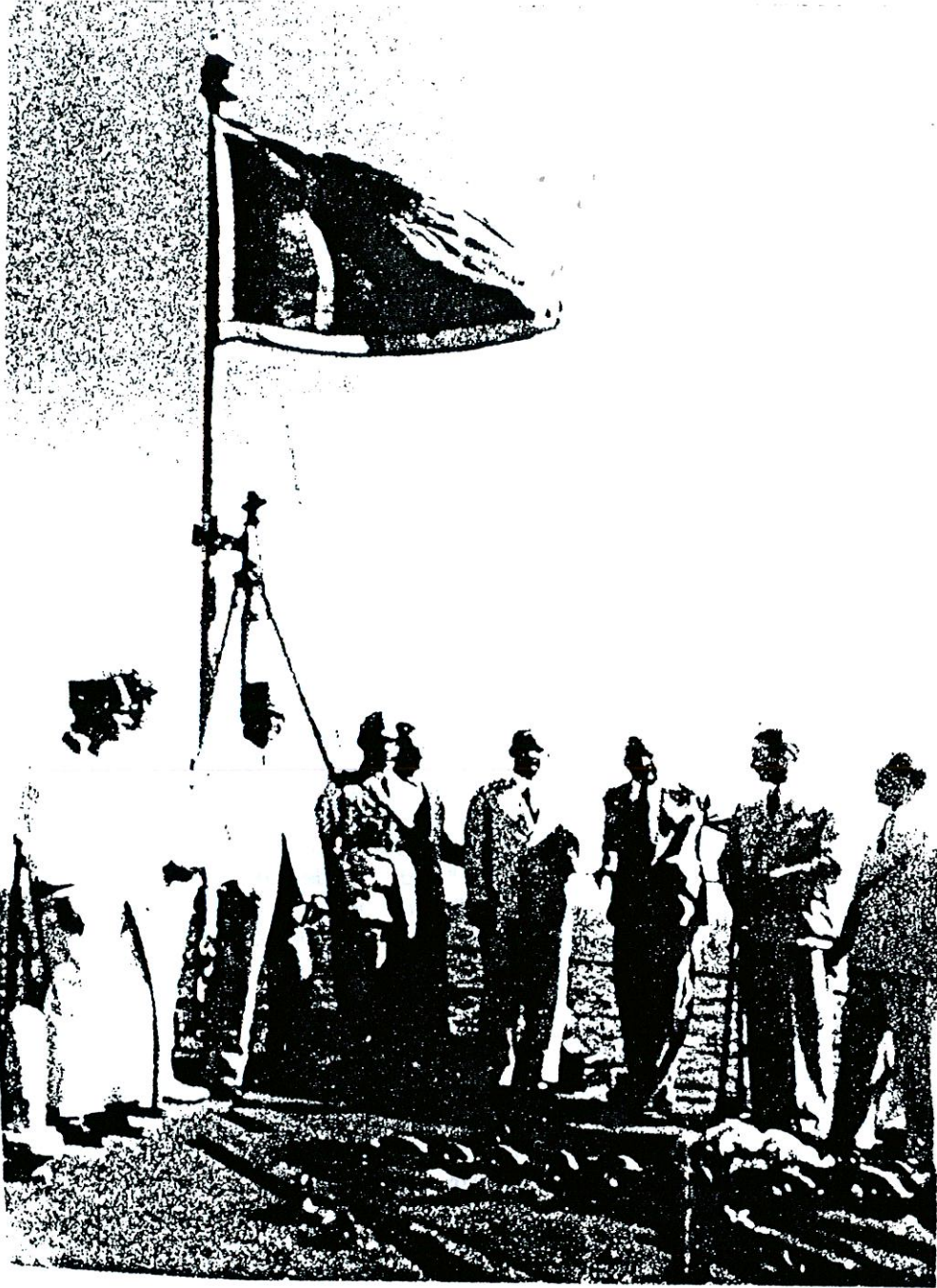
The role that the movement of population, either from place to place, or from few to many is so bound up with the shaping of history that one is sometimes entitled to come to conclusions taking it as a basis. This is more so with the Maldives. The isolation, the result of which was the distorted picture with had the lot of Maldives was the result of the lack of information available to outside readers.

This volume is indeed to fill a gap that has existed in the population figures. In the ancient Maldives the Sultan settled the tax called "Vaaru" by "counting heads" and calculating the taxes on it. But at the turn of the Twentieth Century this "old" mode of collecting data was abandoned and a new, more "rational" one was restored to. But to the dismay of the present generation, no facts were available, until we uncovered the present volume.

This, indeed, is a monumental piece of work done by a worthy son of the country - Abdul Hameed Didi. We hardly are worth the honour to comment on the book written so clearly and in such detail. Therefore we feel it our binding duty to recommend to all who read this to try and visualise in their minds a picture of old Maldives, the tranquility and the contentment of the few who trod on our sacred soil.

A short paragraph on the late Abdul Hameed Didi will not be out of place here. He is the son of Ibrahim Dhoshimeynaa Kilegefaanu, Prime Minister for more than 40 years and Eggamugey Dhon Didi. He was born in 1877 at Galle, Sri Lanka. He assumed the post of Maldivian Government Representative in Ceylon in 1905 and served in that capacity until 1933. He died without issue on 8 July 1958 at Panadura in Sri Lanka.

Majlis for Maldivian History and Culture,
Office of the President, Male,
Dhivehi Raajje, 3 May 1979.



BRITISH and MALDIVE DELEGATION in MALE,
PHOTO ca 1960. L.Vilgon Lib.

P R E F A C E.

Taking of a modern Census of the population of a country necessitates the finding out not only the actual number of its inhabitants, but also of giving an accurate description of each individual under such heads as race, sex, age, conjugal condition, birth-place, religion, occupation, literacy and infirmity. It is therefore plain that the volume of information required is very great, especially when, these informations are sought for from a people steeped in ignorance and unjustifiably suspicious of anything and everything having the semblance of authority.

In the case of the people of the Maldives, however, there was no opposition shown towards the taking of a census and every person readily gave the Government enumerators in 1931 such informations as were required by them, as at the two previous censuses.

As far as was possible, the question of errors in the reported figures is given the usual care and attention, and the correctness of the figures given, under various tables may, therefore, be accepted with confidence. Any slight errors as may have occurred, cannot be ascribed to lack of attention in organizing the operations.

The Maldivian Government and its officers directly in charge of the Census Statistics, the enumerators, who were sent to different islands, the Headmen, the Atoll Verins, (Government Agents of Atolls) on whom the success of the Census so much depends, took very great personal interest and care in checking the returns and in getting them promptly despatched to Male from distant and out of the way islands. Some of them are 350 miles from the Capital, Male.

This Report contains most of the information which will be required for general reference, regarding age, sex, etc.

The publications relating to the Census of the Maldivian Islands will consist of:-

Vol. 1. Census Report.

Vol. 11. Tables of Statistics.

Before closing the Preface it may not be out of place here to quote the translation of the very appropriate Tamil proverb taken from Percival's Collection of Tamil Proverbs: "Those who disregard figures have no eyes. Those who disregard letters have no head." E. ABDUL HAMEED DIDI. [1935.]

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PRINCE HASSAN IZZ-UD-DIN,
PHOTO ca 1930. L.Vilgon Lib.

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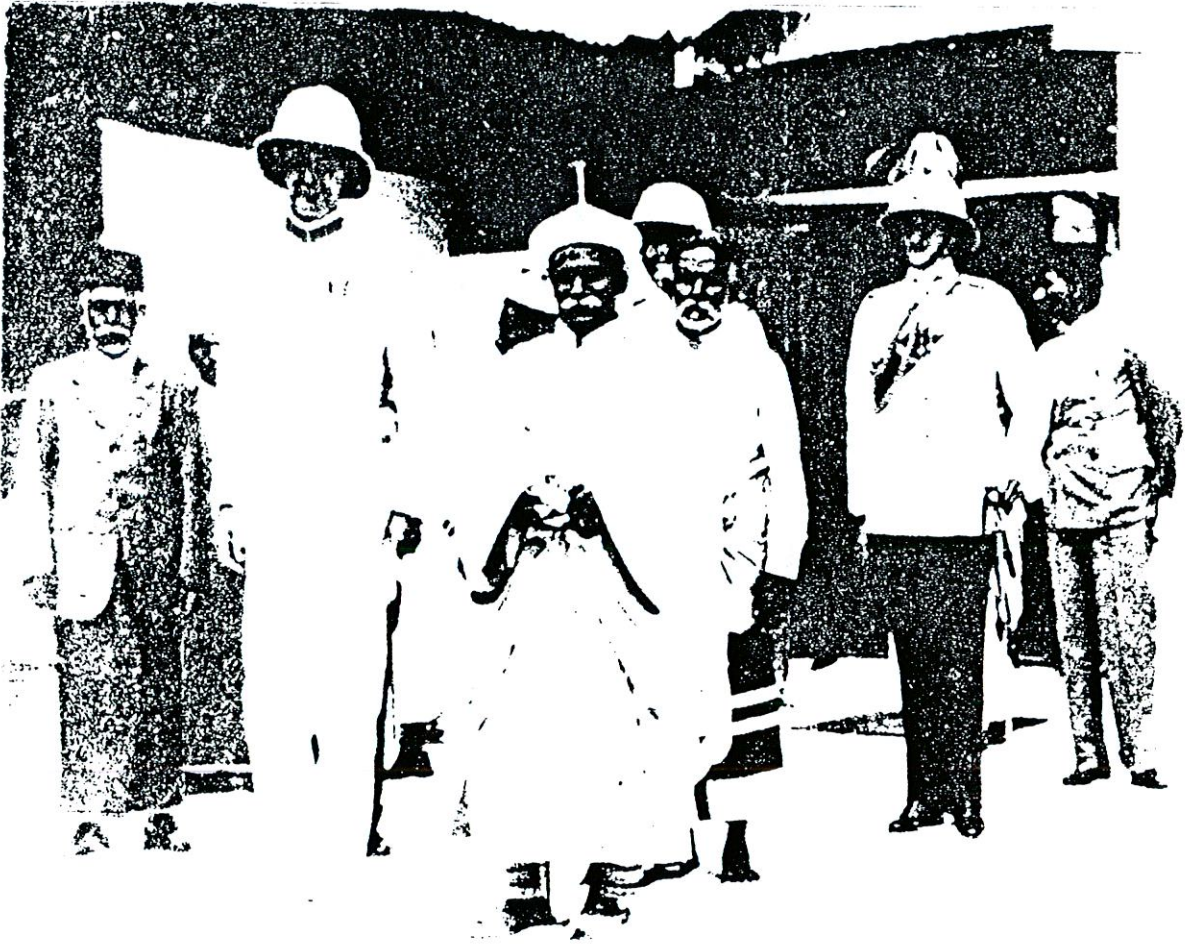
The despatch of competent and trained officers of the Maldivian Government to different atolls, for taking a census of the population of the Maldives, was begun early in 1931. This is by no means an easy task, considering the distances some of the enumerators have had to travel in slow moving vessels, mainly consisting of sailing vessels. In few instances the only boat propelled by machinery was requisitioned for this purpose. This vessel though possesses a high sounding name i.e. M.C.M.V. "FATH-HUS-SALAM", has by no means a speed which could be described as very satisfactory. However, the services of this vessel helped the Maldivian authorities in quickening the filling up of over 15,000 schedules and despatching them to Male, for tallying up purposes.

The number of inhabited islands in the Maldives at this census, was 216, being one island less than the previous two censuses. Why this island should have been depopulated, was not explained by the Maldivian Census authorities, but I think that it was due to sickness and high rate of mortality among the inhabitants on it. The population of this island, however, in 1911 and 1921 Censuses, were 17 and 9 respectively. These show a progressive falling off of its inhabitants, which may account at their migration to other healthier islands of their atolls.

The Maldivian Government having taken a special interest in the taking of this Census, was able to send the completed returns to its representative in Ceylon, in August of the same year. Owing to various unavoidable causes, the writing of this report has to be postponed from time to time, until I was able to find leisure to write it.

Owing to world wide depression, the Ceylon Government themselves did not issue a full report on the Ceylon Census taken in the same year, therefore this report even if written earlier, could not have been incorporated in a Ceylon Census Report.

Before touching on the statistical side of the Census, it may not be out of place to give here, a general description of the Maldivian



SULTAN MUHAMMAD SHAMS-UD-DIN III, and the
BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE from CEYLON,
PHOTO mid 1920s, L.Vilgon Lib.

The group of islands known as the Maldivian Islands, is situated in the Indian Ocean, 400 miles South-West of Ceylon, and lies between 72° 33' and 73° 44' East Longitude and between 0° 42' South Latitude. The nearest point in India from the Islands to the Comorin is 350 miles, from Thavandu island, the most northern island of the Maldivian group.

The islands are grouped together into atolls. Almost all the islands are partly or wholly surrounded by a barrier reef which serves as a natural protection against soil erosion of these islands.

These atolls have been arranged for administrative purposes in 17 groups.

Table No. 1 Distribution of Atolls in the Maldivian Islands 1931:

	Name of Atolls	No. of inhabited islands.
1	Tiladummati atoll	33
2	Miladummadulu atoll	44
3	Miladummadulu atoll	16
4	Malosmadulu atoll	18
5	Malosmadulu atoll	16
6	Fadiffolu atoll	4
7	Male' atoll	12
8	Male' Island or King's Island	1
9	Ari atoll	20
10	Felidi atoll	7
11	Mulaku atoll	8
12	Milande atoll	8
13	Milande atoll	6
14	Kolumadulu atoll	13
15	Haddummati atoll	13
16	Huwadu atoll	20
17	Fua Mulaku Island ¹	1
18	Addu atoll	6
17		276

1. This island as well as Ruadu (Ross atoll) and Goidu (Hornburg atoll) are really not atolls but single islands. Only Fua Mulaku Island is treated as a separate unit for administrative purposes.

Previous Census. Francois Pyrard of Laval mentions that, in the seventeenth century, an annual census as being taken at the close of "Ramedan"³ three days before the close of the "Ramedan", the bell (gong) or cōly⁴ and the trumpet⁵ round the town in the usual way, as when a festival or a royal command is announced, and warn the people on behalf of the Pandiare⁵ (whom the Arab call eady⁶) that all the Maldivian islanders should bring or send in writik, the names of all, both great and small, men and boys, women and girls to be registered, those of Male⁷ to the Pandiare⁵ and those of other islands to the Kibe⁷ of their atoll. When they do this, they have to give in for each person an offering of half a larin, ⁸ equal to four sols of our money, or its equivalent in goods; this is done quite voluntarily and faithfully for they believe that without it their fast would be of no effect.

This annual Census mentioned by Pyrard was not a census in the proper sense. It must have been an order issued by Kazis⁹ to all Muslims, to contribute, according to the Arabic or Shariat Law, 1/40th of the earnings he had accumulated in the current year. This offering is made in either money or kind according to the convenience of the persons expected to make offering. This offering or Zakat is compulsory on every Muslim who has the requisite amount of money or goods. It is customary for Fandiaryu¹⁰ to retain 1/12th part of the total money or kind so collected, and distribute balance, as stated in foot note.

2. A Frenchman who was shipwrecked in the Maldives on 2nd July 1602, and left Maldives in 1607.
3. At Ramedan (N. Roda mas)
4. M. Kolla brass gong
5. M. Fandiaryu
6. A. Gali
7. M. Kabi
8. M. Lari. There is no half lari now. Bodu Lari is the only other coin which is equal to 4 small laries, this is sometimes called Kuda Lari.
9. A Gali

10. See Quran 9:60 where it is mentioned that Zakat should be distributed to 1. The poor 2. The needy 3. Those in debt 4. Ransoming of Captives 5. The faithful parsons. 8. In the way of God.



SULTAN NUR-UD-DIN and BRITISH DELEGATION,
PHOTO mid 1930s. L.Vilgon Lib.

Other enumerations. There were times when something similar to modern censuses used to be taken at the accession of a Sultan. Such enumerations were confined to adults only of between 15 and 55 years of age, and carried out as a means of estimating the population coming under direct tax which at only 120 laries¹¹ or its equivalent in produce per year. None of these enumerations included the whole population, and the last such enumeration was taken during the reign of Sultan Ibrahim Muruddin Iskander in 1889, when the total counted was 18,000,¹² which with those above 55 and below 15 years together with the female population could not have been more than 45,000.

Estimates of the Total Population. The first modern census was taken in 1911, when a total figure of 72,237 was obtained.¹³ The decennial census was taken in 1921, when there was a decrease of 1,824 persons, which was attributable mainly, to the influenza epidemic and starvation, due to rice shortage during the Great War.

Census of 1921. This census was also carried out by the Maldivian Government in a highly efficient manner. The Maldivian Government acted with the Superintendent of Census, Ceylon, through the Maldivian Government Representative, at Colombo, as at the census of 1911. The Ceylon Government supplied all the schedules in the three censuses free of charge. In the absence of printing type in Maldivian characters,¹⁴ the schedules were lithographed in the Survey Office, Colombo, and despatched them to the Maldives for distribution. This procedure was also followed at the Triennial Census of 1931.

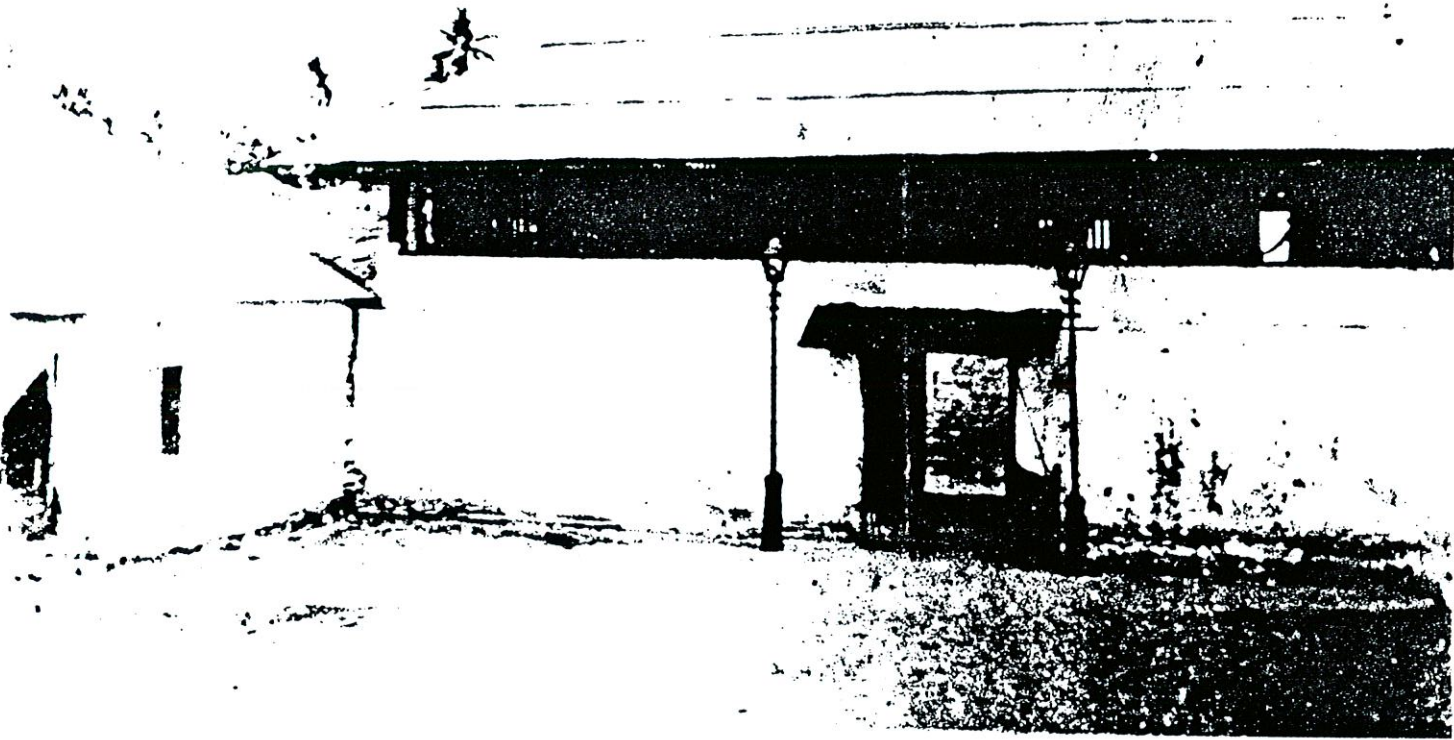
When all the filled up schedules were received at Male', the officers of the Maldivian Government, especially detailed for this purpose, abstracted necessary particulars from the schedules, and returns were prepared in the Maldivian language and forwarded to the Maldivian Government Representative in

11. R.1/- equal to 120 laries or 30 Bodu Laries.
12. 18,000 pairs equal to 36,000 persons males and females. (H. Baiharu)
13. Denham's "Ceylon at the Census of 1911."
14. E.A.H. Didi, Maldivian Government Representative, wrote the Schedules in Maldivian characters for lithographing.

Colombo, who in turn translated them into English and submitted them to the Ceylon Census Department for incorporation in the Ceylon Census Report. This method was followed in the previous two censuses but was preferred from following the same procedure in the case of the Triennial Census of 1931, owing to various causes as already stated. The returns were, therefore translated and tabulated at the office of the Maldivian Government Representative, in Colombo, and are now embodied in this report, which I hope will be as interesting to the statisticians as were the two previous reports, so very ably carried out by Messrs. E.B. Denham and L.J.B. Turner both of the Ceylon Civil Service, in 1911 and 1921 respectively.

Population of the Maldives 1931. The total population at this Census was 78,876 against 70,413 in 1921 and 72,237 in 1911. There were 42,832 males and 36,044 females in 1931, against 38,174 males and 32,239 females in 1921, and 39,244 and 32,993 in 1911.

The distribution among the various atolls in 1931 and 1921 and the increase or decrease of population during these two periods are shown in the following tables:-



PALACE YARD ENTRANCE,
PHOTO ca 1920. L. Vilgon Lib.

From the above table, it would seem that, of all the atolls, Tiladumatti has the largest population, with 12,936 and Mulekatoll, the smallest, with 1,469 a decrease of 5.8 per cent over that of 1921. The population of Male' show a decrease of 3.7 per cent over the figure of 1921, which is accounted for by the fact that many persons who migrated to Male from other islands, owing to poverty, caused during the rice crisis of 1918, and settled down there, were compelled to go back to their islands, to make room for the growing population of the natives of Male itself. The people of Male' 5,502 in 1921 show an increase of 666 persons over that of 1911 which was 5,236, an appreciable increase of 12.7 per cent.

Male', is the capital of the Maldives, and the seat of the Sultan and his Government, and is situated at about 120 miles, in the chains of atolls, from north towards south of the group. The total length of the Archipelago, is 470 miles from the island of Ihavandiffulu to Addu Atoll.

The entire foreign trade of the Maldives, is conducted at Male', and being the Capital, it is the one, most in touch with outside world, and the only one where foreigners are allowed to stay and trade.

Male' is low-lying like the rest of the group and is about five miles in length by three quarter mile at its broadest. The density of population in this island, is very great, about 7,869 persons per square mile. Regarding this congestion, Mr. Bell¹⁵ late of C.C.S Ceylon, remarks, "the undue proportion from a sanitary point of view, of grave yards, the prodigality of Mosques in Male is one of the most noticeable features disclosed by a tour of the island they abound passim and (with the burial grounds attached) occupy so much of the total area that some form of expansion - very probably by utilizing the nearer islands of the atoll - will ere long have to be devised. Male', with its teeming population of over 5,200 souls, is far too overcrowded already.

Migration, or other measures for relieving the congestion, must inevitably be resorted to in the not distant future." As per returns furnished by the Maldivian Government there were 27 burial grounds in Male' Island, out of 465 in the whole of the Maldives. To quote Mr. Bell¹⁶ again who says that, "the scrupulous

¹⁵Inclusive of natives of India and Ceylon.

¹⁶Bell "Report on a visit to Male' 1921

Table No. 2 Population of the Maldivian Islands by Sex for each Atoll for 1921 and 1931

Atoll	1921		1931		Total	Percentage Increase or decrease (-) 1921-1931				Total
	M	F	M	F		M	F	8	9	
Maldivian Islands	38174	32239	70413	43235	79281	13.3	11.8	10	12.6	
Tiladumatti Atoll	5307	4801	10708	6829	12936	28.7	27.2	28	28	
Miladumadulu Atoll(North)	1375	1127	2502	1837	3327	33.6	32.2	33	33	
Miladumadulu Atoll(South)	2435	2084	4519	2923	5406	20.2	19.1	19.6	19.6	
Malloamadulu Atoll(North)	2406	2020	4426	3192	5894	32.7	31.8	32.3	32.3	
Malloamadulu Atoll(South)	1906	1461	3367	2338	4149	22.7	24	23.2	23.2	
Paadiffolu Atoll	1962	1630	3592	2522	4741	28.5	36.1	32	32	
Male' Atoll Dr: Male' Island	1676	1382	3058	1537	2905	2.3	8.2	5	5	
Male' Island	3359	2768	6127	3336	5902	7	7.5	3.7	3.7	
Ari Atoll	2370	1849	4219	2309	4060	2.6	5.3	3.8	3.8	
Felide Atoll	1223	1003	2226	1153	2007	5.7	14.9	9.8	9.8	
Mulaku Atoll	986	758	1744	968	1649	1.8	92.2	5.8	5.8	
Milande Atoll(North)	926	696	1622	922	1786	7.1	34.3	10.1	10.1	
Milande Atoll(South)	1224	1018	2242	1228	2216	3	3	1.2	1.2	
Kahmadulu Atoll	2232	1779	4011	2572	4524	12.5	13.2	12.8	12.8	
Madumatti Atoll	1657	1323	2980	1684	2974	4.5	3.7	2.3	2.3	
Madumatti Atoll	3648	3372	7020	4182	8056	19.6	14.9	14.8	14.8	
Furubakar Island	1142	1043	2185	1113	2126	2.5	2.9	2.3	2.3	
Addu Atoll	2340	2125	4465	2483	4664	39.1	32.6	43.1	43.1	



THE GREAT MALE BASTION from 1520.
PHOTO ca 1920. L.Vilgon Lib.

P. 9.

group, especially in the islands of Haddummati and Addu Atolls and Fua Mulaku Island, in these islands it has to be brought from India mostly through Ceylon. During the rice crisis, as much as Rs. 60/- was demanded for a bag of Korarico, when its price in India was only Rs. 25/-

Only in Haddummati and Addu Atolls and Fua Mulaku Island, people could be self-supporting, where the staple foodstuffs being, dry fish, fine grains, coconuts, and yams of different varieties. The Maldivians ordinarily depend to a great extent on fish and coconuts.

The physical feature of the islands is their flatness never rising to anything like a hill, so that there are no rivers, even in the rainy seasons. Most of the islands have thick jungles where coconut palm is seen towering above the foliage. Although rice is not grown, dry grain is successfully grown in most of the islands. Three kinds of Millet-Bimbi (Sin. Kurakkan) Ura (Sin. Hinner) and Kudibai (Sin. tana Hal) and maize are raised in many islands. Fruit trees, as papaya, oranges, plantains, mangoes, pine apples etc. and nearly all the low country vegetables found in Ceylon, are cultivated.

Regarding the health of the atolls the ruling factor of the climate is the monsoons, South-West and North-East, as in Ceylon. The climate is generally reputed to be unhealthy for Europeans, but is not considered unsuitable to the Maldivians and, as a race, they are fairly healthy and active. Outbreaks of Malarial fever frequent during the dry season, and are now considerably less, owing to the clearing of Jungles, 18 which, along with still lagoons and lakes are the direct causes of the disease. The temperature in the Southern atolls and Male', is not higher than that of Colombo.

Traces of any size suitable for boat and house building are ruthlessly cut up, and even coconut trees are cut down for these purposes. In the absence of a fixed policy of the Maldivian Government, regarding forests, there is no reforestation work of any kind being carried on in the Maldivian Islands. The result that there is an active shortage of timber necessary for the building of boats and houses. Large quantities of these are now imported from India and Ceylon. The shortage of firewood is also being increasingly felt, and a cwt of it fetches as much as Rs. 2/- to Rs. 3/- at Male'.

The ordinary food of a Maldivian consists of imported rice, coconut, honey or jaggery or imported Java or China sugar, fish soup (M. Garuda) fish sauce known in Ceylon and India as fish blood (M. Rihakuru), and fish curry. In Haddummati and Addu atolls as well as in Fua Mulaku Island, and fish curry, mostly on root-food.

P. 8.

cleanliness and order in which the coral carpeted streets of the Town¹⁷ are studiously kept, have earned the deserved eulogy of more than one European visitor:- 'Within the residential part of the town, the whole place is kept in such order as might well give a lesson to much more civilized places. The streets are as tidy as could well be, and evil smells are apparently quite unknown'. Apparently, the writer of this eulogy, had not visited that part of the town, where the foreign merchants have their quarters, if he had done so, he would have had a different tale to relate.

Table No. 3 shows an increase during the decade of 12.6 per cent in the total population of the Maldives, and this increase occurred in ten of the atolls. In the absence of statistics of births and deaths, it is not possible to investigate the causes of increase or decrease in the various atolls. According to the Maldivian Government, the decreasing of population due to influenza and famine as a result of shortage of rice, was arrested after 1922, and the population increased appreciably since then. See Table No. 2.

There were 10 towns in the Maldives with a population of over 1,000 persons of both sexes, in 1931.

They are:-

	Persons		Percentage increase or decrease (-)
	1921	1931	
Diddu	963	1516	36.2
Huvarafuri	1177	1602	41.2
Kuluduffuri	1148	1973	71.9
Kadoludu	873	1336	53.0
Hinnavaru	1405	2156	53.4
Naifaru	1665	2015	21.0
Male' Island	6172	5902	- 5.7
Havaru Finnadu,	1985	2472	24.5
Fua Mulaku Island	2185	2126	- 2.7
Hitadu	1771	1961	10.7

In this connection, it may be noted that, the food supply of the islands is not considered satisfactory. As rice does not grow (no attempt has been made to investigate the possibilities of growing it in the islands, though evidence is not wanting to show that, it could be grown in some islands of the

17. Since Mr. Bell visited Male' almost the whole island is now occupied and to make room for houses, larger compounds have been built, and small...



SULTAN SHAMS UD DIN outside the MOSQUE,
PHOTO ca 1930 L.Vilgon Lib.

P. 10

The average rainfall in Northern atolls is 35-45 inches and in the central atolls and Southern atolls it averages 60 to 75 inches a year. Addu is known to be the healthiest atoll, while Huvad and especially Havaru, Tinadu, Igland of this atoll, are the most unhealthy atoll and island in the archipelago. Buildings. The various buildings in the Maldives numbered 16,772 and included 15,043 dwelling houses, 222 dispensaries, 493 mosques, 207 public halls, 34 navigation schools, 3 Arabic schools, 1 boys' house, 209 Maizanges, or meeting halls and 80 foreign shops: of the dwelling houses 175 were tiled, against 74 in 1921, 4193 roofed with corrugated sheets, against 821 in 1921, and 9,753 thatched against 13,161 in 1921. There were 1,889 houses built of coral stones in 1931.

Houses and Families. The number of houses increased from 13,820 in 1911, and 14,056 in 1921, to 15,043 in 1931, while the number of families though decreased from 13,966 in 1911 to 13,508 in 1921, the figures for 1931, show a considerable increase with 16,720 families. The proportions of persons per house (5.4) is slightly higher in the Maldives than in Ceylon (4.8). In the case of families, the proportion of (4.8) persons per family is also slightly higher than the ratio (4.7) obtained in Ceylon. Fadiffolu atoll shows the highest number of persons per house (6.3) as in 1921 (7.2) though slightly less than that year Himmufuri island of Malo' atoll has the highest number of persons living in a house (8.4).

Race and Religion. With the exception of 405 foreigners on Male' Island - 245 Boraks, 92 Malayalees, 64 Ceylon Moors, 2 Sinhalese and 2 sailors; foreigners nearly doubled during the decade under review - the population of the Maldives was entirely Maldivian. All the inhabitants were Muslims, but it seems clear that Buddhism was once the chief religion of the people.¹⁹

Their conversion to Muhammadanism is dated 1153 A.C. On the extent of animistic nature-worship, reference may be made to Professor W. Geiger's Maldivian Linguistic Studies.²⁰ Mr Bell is of opinion that the former inhabitants of the Maldives were, centuries ago, closely connected with the Sinhalees, who were undoubtedly the original settlers in the Maldives.

P. 11

Birth Places. All the Maldivians enumerated in the islands were returned as locally born. Of the 377 natives of India, 245 were merchants from the Bombay Presidency, 92 from Malabar; 68 from Ceylon including 2 females, 3 from Egypt including 1 female from Hecca and 4 males and 3 females from Minicoy Island. There were 30 Maldivians enumerated in Ceylon in 1921 - 22 males and 4 females in the town of Colombo: 2 males in the Colombo District, and 2 males in the Ratnapura District. Their birth places were returned as Galle (2 males and 1 female) and Maldives Islands (24 males and 3 females). These figures for 1931 census in Ceylon were not separately enumerated owing to retrenchment, and were therefore, not available for inclusion in this report.

Sex. The total number of males shown in the returns for the Maldives in 1931 was 43,235, against 38,174 in 1921 and 39,244 in 1911,²¹ and the total number of females in 1931, was 36,046 against 32,239 in 1921, and 32,993 in 1911.

The detailed figures for various atolls are given in Table No. 2. Masculinity in the Maldives. The following table shows the masculinity in 1931 1921 and 1911, for each atoll of the Maldives.

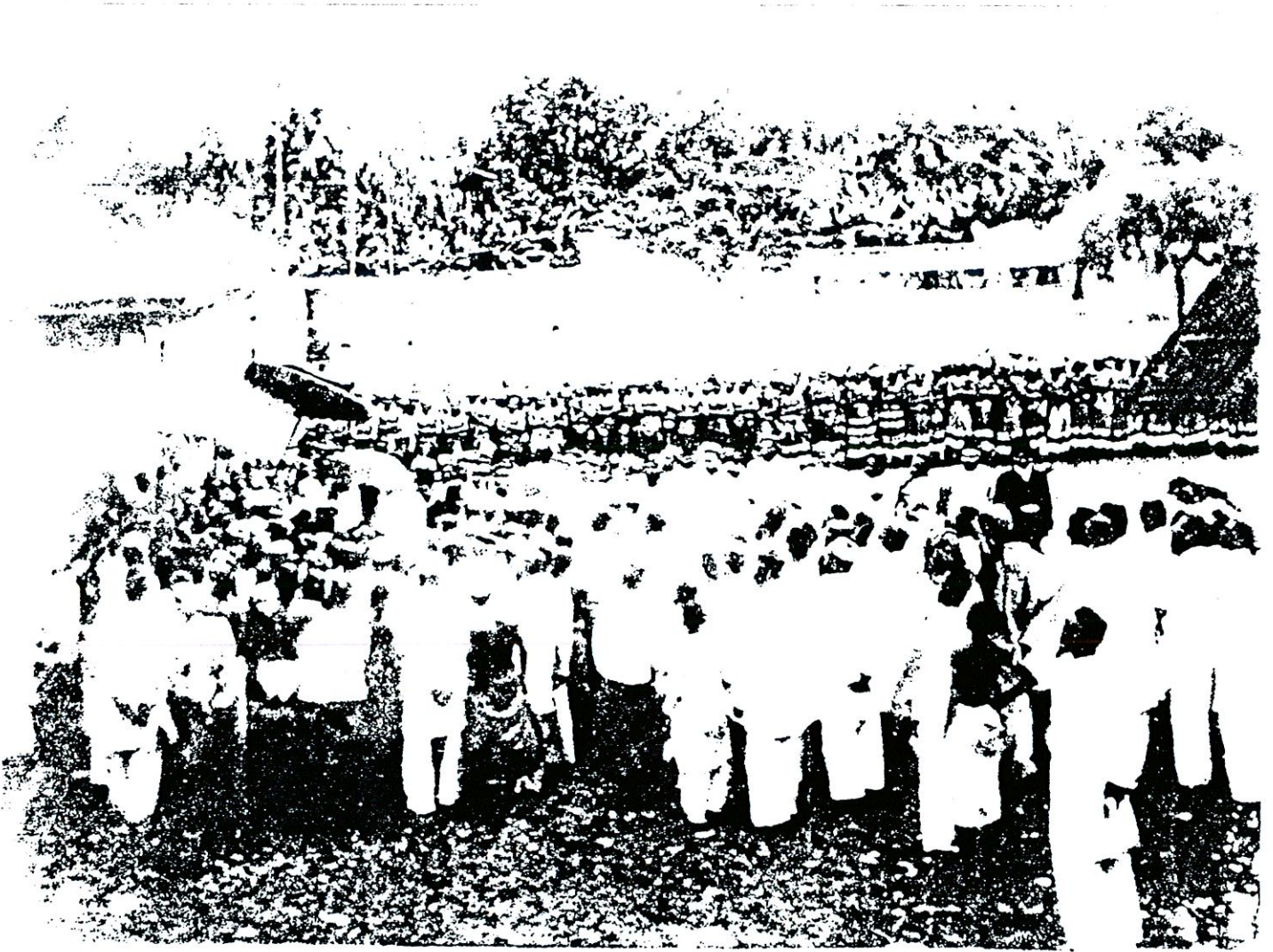
Table No. 3 Masculinity in each atoll 1911, 1921, and 1931 per 1,000 persons

Atoll	1911	1921	1931
Tiladummati Atoll	2	3	4
Miladummadulu Atoll (North)	540	525	528
Miladummadulu Atoll (South)	548	550	552
Malosmadulu Atoll (North)	546	539	541
Malosmadulu Atoll (South)	535	544	545
Fadiffolu Atoll	564	566	564
Male' Atoll	532	546	532
Male' Island	555	548	564
Ari Atoll	540	548	565
Kuakku Atoll	563	562	569
Felidi Atoll	544	549	574
Milande Atoll (North)	571	565	587
Milande Atoll (South)	549	571	555
Kolumadulu Atoll	546	550	554
Haddummati Atoll	560	556	555
Huvad Atoll	560	556	565
Fua Mulaku Island	530	520	519
Addu Atoll	536	523	524
Maldivian Islands	516	524	532
	543	542	545

The masculinity of the population of the Maldives appear to be

21. "Report on the census of the Maldives Islands 1921" by L.J.B. Turner and Ceylon at the census of 1911" by F.B. Denham

19. Bell "Report on a visit to Male' 1921."
20. See page 24 of this report.



The SULTAN entering the the MOSQUE,
PHOTO ca 1930, L.Vilgon Lib.

considerably higher than the ratio found in table No. 4 compared with some other countries.

Table No. 4 Masculinity
in some other countries²²

Ceylon	1921	529	Indian States	1921	513
British India	1921	514	Greece	1907	503
Japan	1920	501	Belgium	1919	495
Ireland	1911	499	England & Wales	1921	476
America	1910	515	Sweden	1920	491
Bengal	1921	517	Bombay	1921	521
Burma	1921	511	Madras	1921	493
Punjab	1921	546	Central Provinces	1921	500

From the above table, it would appear that, with the exception of Punjab in India, the ratio of masculinity in other countries is much lower than in the Maldives. In the case of the Maldives, it cannot be said to be due to immigration which was practically nil and that it is unlikely to be due to errors of enumeration: and the only explanation lies in the abnormal female death rate, which is admittedly very high. One of the main reasons for this large difference between the number of males and females in the Maldives, is the mortality from deceases of puerperal state which increase the female death rate under age periods 20-25 and 25-35 for want of proper care and attention at child birth and of living in unhealthy quarters which may be the other contributory causes of this unfortunate state of affairs. There are no doctors and trained midwives in any of the islands of the Maldivian group. A proposal, however, is on foot to import a few doctors and midwives in the near future, when this is done, it is hoped, a general improvement in the health of the people, will be noticeable, in a decade or two hence. A doctor and a midwife, in the chief island of each atoll, would have a most beneficial effect on the health of the people.

It will be seen that while the masculinity of the total population shows an increase between 1921 and 1931, the rates for many of the different

22. I am greatly indebted for this information to Mr. L.J.B Turner. See Report on "Census Publications".

atolls show very noticeable differences, due no doubt, to the small population involved.

Table No. 5 Masculinity by Decennial Age Groups in the Maldivian Islands in 1921 and 1931.

Table No. 5 Masculinity by Decennial Age-Groups in the Maldivian Islands in 1921 and 1931, with Ceylon figures given for the purpose of comparison for 1931.

Decennial age-groups	Ceylon 1921	Maldivian Islands 1921	Maldivian Islands 1931
1	2	3	4
0 - 9	510	516	519
10 - 19	527	526	516
20 - 29	511	461	518
30 - 39	560	585	576
40 - 49	559	653	599
50 - 59	543	665	611
60 & OVER	568	666	662

In view of the absence of migration, the question of masculinity in the Maldives, requires more detailed mention than is possible here, and the collection of vital statistics in all the islands would be of very great value and interest.

The registration of births and deaths in the Maldives could very easily be made, owing to the fact of there being on each of the atolls either a *Khatēbu*²³ or a *Mudim*.²⁴

The number of persons, males and females, at each age up to 4, and by quinquennial groups thereafter, are shown in the following table:-

23. M. Khatēbu - High Priest who leads the Friday Prayers at mosques.



BEAGLE CLASS DESTROYER at MALE ROAD,
PHOTO MALE ROAD about 1930, L.Vilgon Lib.

Decennial Age Group. The following table shows the distribution by decennial age groups for the Maldives:-

Table No. 8. Decennial Age Distribution of 100 Persons of each sex, in the Maldivian Islands, in 1921 and 1931.

Age Period	PERSONS			FEMALES		
	1921	1931	1921	1931	1921	1931
0 - 9	2	3	4	5	6	7
10 - 19	27	22	26	21	28	23
20 - 29	30	26	29	24	31	27
30 - 39	16	22	13	21	18	23
40 - 49	12	13	13	14	11	12
50 - 59	7	8	8	9	5	7
60 & over	5	6	6	6	3	5
	4	4	5	5	3	3

Child bearing Age:- The proportion of the women of ages 15 - 39 to a 1,000 of the total population is shown for each atoll in the following table:-

Table No. 9 Proportion of females aged 15-39 to 1,000 of the total population, in each atoll in 1921 & 1931.

Atoll	1921	1931
Atoll	1	3
Maldivian Islands	215	226
Tiladummati Atoll	243	252
Miladummadulu Atoll (North)	226	216
Miladummadulu Atoll (South)	183	222
Malommadulu Atoll (North)	214	210
Malommadulu Atoll (South)	209	205
Paifollu Atoll	175	201
Male' Atoll excluding Male' Island	213	200
Male' Island	223	224
Atoll	219	246
Felidi Atoll	212	205
Mulaku Atoll	199	178
Milande Atoll (North)	217	200
Milande Atoll (South)	202	245
Kolumadulu Atoll	193	231
Raddummati Atoll	191	200
Buwadu Atoll	230	255
Kya Mulaku Island	230	240
Atoll	216	215
Ceylon All Races	199	

The following table shows the number of people who were liable to yearly taxes.

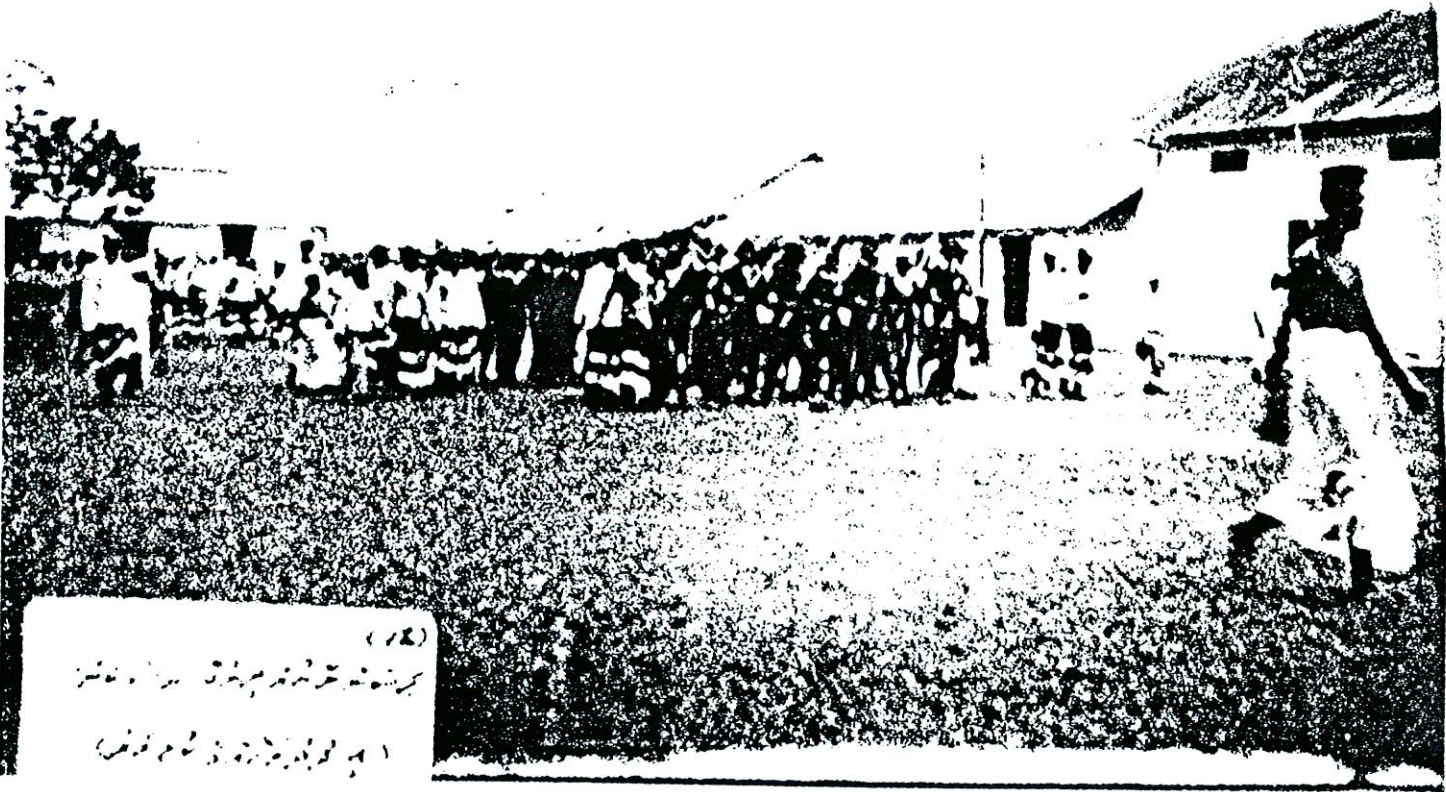
Table No. 6 Population by Age 1921 and 1931 of the Maldivian Islands.

Age Period	Males		Females		Total
	1921	1931	1921	1931	
All Ages	37,957	32,239	70,196	42,832	78,876
0	479	490	969	1,158	2,127
1	769	781	1,550	1,135	2,685
2	1,228	1,185	2,413	1,068	3,481
3	1,505	1,475	2,980	1,164	4,144
4	1,929	1,790	3,719	1,223	4,942
5	2,453	2,349	4,802	1,883	6,685
10	5,430	4,307	9,737	2,344	12,081
15	5,717	5,724	11,441	4,487	15,928
20	2,706	3,660	6,366	5,258	11,624
25	2,150	2,248	4,398	5,118	9,516
30	3,318	2,449	5,767	5,263	11,030
35	1,606	2,449	4,055	2,470	6,525
40	2,316	1,038	3,354	2,585	5,939
45	848	1,203	2,051	1,820	3,871
50	1,593	476	2,069	1,510	3,579
55	508	792	1,300	1,660	2,960
60	267	267	534	1,430	1,964
65	1,040	775	1,815	1,273	3,088
70	282	537	819	753	1,572
75	291	152	443	465	908
80	78	135	213	280	493
85	87	27	114	102	216
90	13	48	61	57	118
95	7	5	12	18	30
100	3	1	4	9	13
	1	-	1	5	6

* Exclusive of the natives of India and Ceylon enumerated in Male' Island. The Triple Age Grouping: The distribution for the three age-groups 0 - 14, 15 - 49, and 50 and over, is shown in the following table.

Table No. 7 Percentage distribution of the Triple Age Grouping in the Maldives 1921 and 1931

Age Period	Males			Females		
	1921	1931	1921	1931	1921	1931
0 - 14	15	15	15	15	15	15
15 - 49	50	49	50	49	50	49
50 & over	35	36	35	36	35	36
All Ages	100	100	100	100	100	100



FESTIVAL MALE, TRADITIONAL DRESSES,
PHOTO ca. 1950. L.Vilgon Lib.

Table No. 10 The number of Males aged 15-54
Inclusive in each atoll of the Maldives 1921 and 1931

Atoll	1921	1931
1	2	3
Maldive Islands	20,454	25,336
Tiladummati Atoll	2,925	4,238
Miladummadulu Atoll (North)	820	884
Miladummadulu Atoll (South)	1,824	1,824
Malosmadulu Atoll (North)	1,258	1,741
Malosmadulu Atoll (South)	980	1,415
Fadiffolu Atoll	1,044	1,263
Male Atoll	910	999
Male' Island	1,960	1,977
Ari Atoll	1,347	1,489
Felidi Atoll	592	637
Mulaku Atoll	538	515
Nilande Atoll (North)	526	561
Nilande Atoll (South)	640	799
Kolomadulu Atoll	1,096	1,441
Haddummati Atoll	791	981
Huwadu Atoll	1,831	2,220
Fua Mulaku Island	710	650
Addu Atoll	1,241	1,302

The Mean Age. The mean age for the Maldives was 26.6 for males, 23.8 for females and 25.3 for total persons in 1931, and 23.1 for males, 20.1 for females and 21.7 for total persons in 1921.

The Centennarians. At the 1931 Census, there was no centenarian in the whole of the Maldives, but there was one solitary male of the age of 100 at the census of 1921. 5 males and 1 female were entered as between 95-99 against 3 males in 1921, and there were 9 males and 1 female between 90 - 94 as against 7 males and 1 female in 1921.

Conjugal Condition. In the Maldives, the normal age at which both sexes marry is generally 15 and over. There were, however, 446 females, married, widowed or divorced at ages 10-14 in 1931. These amounted to about 10 per 1,000 of the population of those ages.

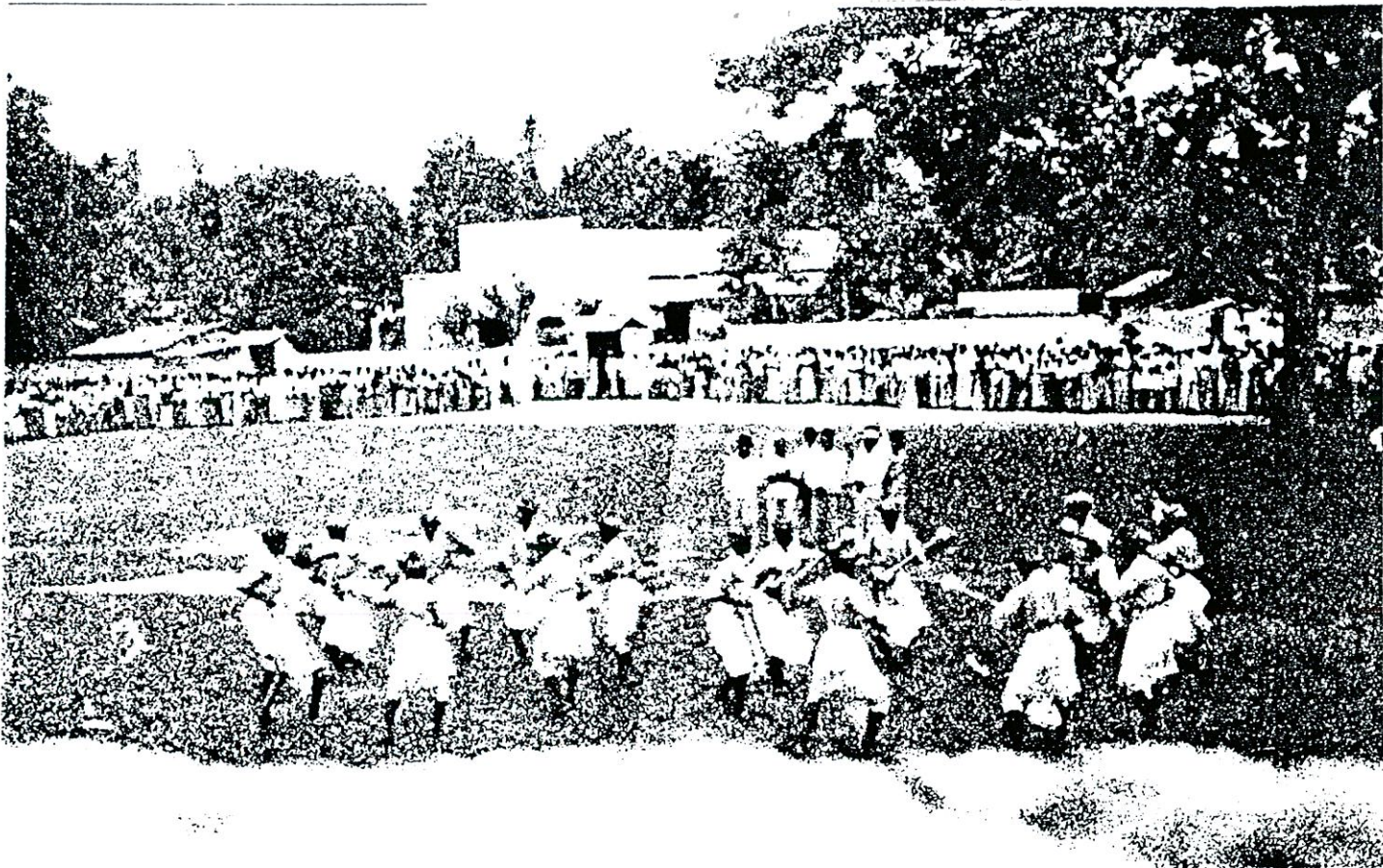
17
Proportion of the Unmarried. The following table shows (a) the proportion of unmarried males, aged 15 and over, to 1,000 of the male population of those ages; and (b) the proportion of the unmarried females aged 15 and over, to 1,000 of the female population of those ages.

Table No. 11 Proportion of the Unmarried in a thousand of the
Total Males or Females aged 15 years and over in the
Maldives in 1921 and 1931.

Maldives and Ceylon Compared	Males		Females	
	A	B	A	B
1	1921	1931	1921	1931
	2	3	4	5
Maldive Islands	231	276	91	116
Ceylon	455	--	288	--

This table indicates that marriage is more universal among the Maldivians than among the Sinhalese in Ceylon. The increase in proportion of both unmarried males and females is noticeable in the Maldives at the triennial census of 1931, but at the census of 1921, the proportion of unmarried males show an increase over that of 1911, the proportion in the female unmarried show a slight decrease in 1921 over that of 1911. Fyraud says "Fathers give their daughters in marriage as soon as possible after the age of ten years, thinking it a great sin to let a girl want a husband; therefore they hand them over at the age of ten or eleven to the first that asks them, without making any bother, be he old or young, man or boy; provided only there is little difference in their quality, that is all they think of."²⁵

The proportion of the unmarried, aged 15 years and over are shown for each atoll of the Maldives in the following table:-



TARA DANCE outside THE SULTANS PALAIS,
ALL DRESSED in MALDIVE COSTUMES.
PHOTO ca 1950, L.Vilgon Lib.

Table No. 12 Proportion of the Unmarried, aged 15 years and over, to a thousand persons of each sex of those ages, in each atoll of the Maldives in 1921 and 1931.

Atoll	Unmarried Males		Unmarried Females	
	1921	1931	1921	1931
1	2	3	4	5
Maldivian Islands	231	276	91	116
Tiladummati Atoll	222	286	51	154
Miladummadulu Atoll (North)	184	161	34	41
Miladummadulu Atoll (South)	173	301	102	149
Malosmadulu Atoll (North)	125	217	44	66
Malosmadulu Atoll (South)	234	344	45	142
Fadiffolu Atoll	266	267	18	95
Male' Atoll excluding Male Island	244	274	136	142
Male' Island or King's Island	253	266	61	145
Ari Atoll	268	312	140	120
Felidi Atoll	203	271	101	44
Muleku Atoll	281	194	178	55
Nilande Atoll (North)	251	247	140	30
Nilande Atoll (South)	282	330	153	135
Nolmadulu Atoll	196	276	67	126
Haddummati Atoll	237	234	123	23
Huwadu Atoll	206	293	135	125
Fua Mulaku Island	352	311	167	148
Addu Atoll	292	290	105	95

The lowest proportion of unmarried males (161 in Miladummadulu atoll North) is very much less than the average 176 for 1931, and that of the unmarried female (23 in Haddummati atoll) is about 1/5 of the average (116) for the Maldives.

The above table shows that according to the returns submitted, there were more unmarried males and females in the decade ending 1931.

Conjugal Condition by Age-Group. The following tables show the proportion of the unmarried, married, widowed or divorced of each sex at the decennial

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Table No. 13 Conjugal Condition of a 1,000 persons of each sex at each Age-Group in the Maldives, 1931.

Age-Group	Unmarried		Married		Widowed or Divorced	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
All Ages 15 & over	276	116	578	704	146	180
10-14	1000	901	-	70	-	29
15-19	799	390	142	498	59	112
20-24	372	69	494	816	133	115
30-39	50	12	810	862	140	126
40-49	22	6	823	766	155	227
50-59	15	5	792	555	193	440
60 & over	13	6	636	297	352	697

Table No. 14 Conjugal Condition of a 1,000 persons of each sex at each Age-Group in the Maldives, 1921.

Age-Group	Unmarried		Married		Widowed or Divorced	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
All Ages 15 & over	231	91	594	703	175	206
10-14	984	940	14	57	2	3
15-19	674	218	280	675	46	107
20-24	205	50	568	778	227	172
30-39	49	25	766	784	185	191
40-49	28	22	795	671	177	307
50-59	14	16	766	534	220	450
60 & over	11	16	635	330	354	654

Proportions of Unmarried females at various ages:- The following table will show the above



MALE HARBOUR, probably 1932,
Cruser HAWKIN Class, and the
CRAIN for LIFTING CORALL,
PHOTO ca.1930, L.Vilgon Lib.

Table No. 15, Distribution by Age of a 1,000 Unmarried Females aged 15 and over in the Maldives, 1921 and 1931

Age Group	Maldives	
	1921	1931
1	2	3
15 - 19	735	757
20 - 29	173	213
30 - 39	52	18
40 - 49	22	6
50 - 59	10	3
60 & over	8	2

This table shows that, as a result of depressed economic conditions during the decade 1921-1931, the proportion of unmarried females has increased; but the proportions in the higher ages show a considerable decrease of unmarried females, indicating that the marriage life is not so universal as in the previous decade 1911-1921.

Widowed or Divorced. The proportion of the widowed or divorced among the male in 1931 was 146 per 1,000 and among the females 180 against 175 and 206 in 1921 and 1911 respectively. The reason for the higher proportion in the case of females was due to women marrying earlier than men, and are more likely to be widowed sooner, and may have less chance of remarriage. According to Pyruard After the dissolution of the marriage by divorce or death the women cannot marry again quite so soon. When a husband dies, four months and ten days are ordained for the widow to mourn and then to marry again it suffices not for the women to say off hand that her husband is dead, for she must prove his death: for three witnesses who speak to the time, manner and thereof. If, however, the husband were absent from the Kingdom and the wife had nothing of his, she could re-marry a year after.²⁶

26. "Voyage of Francois Pyruard" V. 1 Page 155.

Literacy. By a literate is meant a person able to read and write a language.

The following table shows the proportion of literates in each age-group 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, and 20 and over, for males and females, in the Maldives, for 1921 and 1931.

Table No. 16 Percentage of Literates in the Maldives and Age-Group, 1921 and 1931 (excluding children aged 0-4)

Age Group	M A L E S		F E M A L E S	
	1921	1931	1921	1931
1	2	3	4	5
ALL AGES 5 & over	53	64	45	57
5 - 9	9	9	7	7
10 - 14	29	43	29	39
15 - 19	54	68	50	64
20 & over	70	74	57	67
Ceylon, ALL Races of all ages, 5 & over	56	-	21	-

The proportion of literates of both sexes in 1931, shows an increase over the first and decennial census of 1911 from that of 1921, but a decrease was shown at the census of 1921 from that of 1911, which is strange. It may have been due to a better appreciation of the value of giving a correct educational qualifications of persons than in 1911. The male percentage of literates among all races in Ceylon and the Maldives at the census of 1921, being 56 and 53, but the female proportion is very much higher in the Maldives than in Ceylon, the figures being 45 for Maldives and 21 for Ceylon at the census of 1921. The Maldivian proportion for both males and females in 1931, shows the literates for all ages, of 5 years and over, 64 males and 57 females which indicates a progressive increase of literates over that of 1921, in both sexes. Ceylon figures not being available for 1931, it was not possible to compare them with the figures of those of the Maldives. It is gratifying to note however, that, both sexes appear to be very well instructed in their languages.



CEYLON OFFICIAL BOAT at MALE ROAD,
PHOTO ca, 1930. L. Vilgon Lib.

omplete letters and vowels sounds otherwise it would not be possible for teachers to teach the Quran or for students to learn it. The proportion of literates in the various atolls is shown below in which is included the number of schools in each atoll

Table No. 17 Percentage of Literates to the Total Population of each sex (excluding children aged 0-4) and the number of schools in each atoll in 1931

Atoll	Percentage of Literates		Quran Navigation Schools	Arabic Schools
	Males	Females		
Maldivian Islands	64.1	57.3	518	34
Tladummati Atoll	59.6	55.	61	-
Miladummadulu Atoll (North)	57.8	47.4	25	-
Miladummadulu Atoll (South)	75.7	79.2	26	3
Malosmadulu Atoll (North)	33.1	26.2	49	-
Malosmadulu Atoll (South)	56.4	58.6	19	-
Zaafolli Atoll	45.3	36.8	41	-
Male' Atoll	67.7	55.9	7	-
Male' Island	89.1	79.	22	2
Felid Atoll	71.2	64.3	20	-
Mulaku Atoll	79.3	84.3	13	-
Milande Atoll (North)	84.2	83.8	11	-
Milande Atoll (South)	81.5	22.6	13	-
Miladummadulu Atoll	69.5	64.3	8	-
Badummati Atoll	60.2	55.	43	-
Buvadu Atoll	35.5	37.4	25	-
Paafu Atoll	79.7	65.8	94	10
Paafu Island	76.	75.6	13	6
Paafu Atoll	55.6	53.3	28	12

The highest proportions of literacy for both sexes were in Mulaku Atoll in 1931 i.e., 84 males and 83.8 females and in 1921 Ari Atoll had the distinction of being the highest with 85.9 males and 81.8 females and the lowest in Malosmadulu Atoll North in 1931 33.1 males and 26 females against the lowest in 1921 with 25.7 males and 10.6 females and 21.4 males and 3.4 females in Malosmadulu Atoll North and South respectively. The lowest proportion of female literates in 1931 was in Milande Atoll North with only 22.6

Vernacular schools are numerous all over the Maldives which, both male and female students attend.

In 1931, there were 518 Quran schools, against 839 in 1921. There were 34 navigation schools in 1931 against 18 in 1921 and 28 in 1911. At the census of 1911, Arabic schools were not separately enumerated, but in 1931, there were 3 schools in which exclusively higher Arab education were given, 2 in Male Island and 1 in Addu Atoll. In most of the schools returned as Quran schools, Maldivian language were also taught. Mr Bell, in his Report of 1881, quoting Christopher, writes "Children of both sexes, are required to the Koran, under the tuition of minor priests, from the age of three or four. When considered to be sufficiently grounded in its precepts, they receive no further instruction beyond being initiated into the ceremonials of religion. Christopher is at fault in asserting that a knowledge of writing is left to be acquired anyhow. 'Their studies' says Pyriard are to be read and to learn their Alcoran they write their lessons on little tablets of wood, which are whitened, and when they have learned their lesson they efface that they have written and whiten them afresh, he adds that the letters are drawn on fine white sand spread over wooden boards. It would otherwise be difficult to account for the fact that at the present day the majority of the men seem to possess a fair acquaintance with the ordinary Maldivian character if they have received no instruction when young. These accounts seem to be accurate and the same system of teaching Quran are followed today with very slight variation in a few islands. At least in Male Island, instead of wooden tablets or boards, present day exercise books and slates, are generally preferred. It is perhaps not generally known to those foreigners who had paid flying visits as it were, to Maldivian Islands, except Pyriard and Ibu Batiti: that when teaching Quran, it is absolutely necessary to teach, first to learn and write each letter of the Arabic alphabet and then the pronunciation of formation of 2

27. Some method is followed today as in those days.
28. Bell "The Maldivian Islands"



TARA DANCE IN the MALE PALACE,
PHOTO ca.1930. L.Vilgon Lib.

Language. A very large portion of Maldivian vocabulary consists of either pure Sinhalese words, with vowel modifications and change of "p" to "m" (may be due to Arabic influence) or of derivatives from a root common to the two languages. Intercourse with other races has been productive of considerable number of foreign words. On page 22, "Maldivian Linguistic Studies", by Professor Wilhelm Geiger, the well known grammarian of Germany, edited by Mr. H.C.P. Bell, and published as an extra number in 1919 for the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Professor Geiger writing on Maldivian hand writing, says "we are still far from a history of script, and any far-reaching conclusion we make respecting the character of the Maldivian writing must be considered rash and uncertain In regard to the ancient form of the Maldivian writing Gray (Albert Gray) has already written. He shows its resemblance to the Ancient Sinhalese Alphabet of Twelfth Century Inscription, by simply placing the respective signs side by side in single characters, the agreement is, in fact immediately perceptible. The sign for f (11) resembles the Sinhalese p... the same is the case with the signs for r (5) and t (13) in the signs for k(7) and g (15) the connection is unmistakable and on page 23 Geiger says, "As regards the Maldivians, it would follow that did not borrow their writing from the Sinhalese until the ninth of tenth century; or that, if they brought their writing with them, they did not settle in the Archipelago before this time. In itself it would be quite conceivable, either that (a) the Aryans coming from Ceylon were the first colonists of the Maldives, or that (b) they met with an older aboriginal population of the island. As the Maldivians themselves have had no idea of their origin, or means to find it, owing to the whole sale destruction of ancient stone inscriptions found in different islands and at different periods, it is difficult and indeed impossible, to contradict the conclusions arrived at by such eminent foreign writers as Gray and Geiger on the origin of the Maldivian language.

Script. The oldest Maldivian alphabet so far known, is called Dives Akuru and the modern alphabet is called Gabuli Tana or the corrupted alphabet.

this script was introduced only a century or so ago and originated from the Arabic numerals from 1 to 9 and the rest or at least part of them from Arabic alphabet.

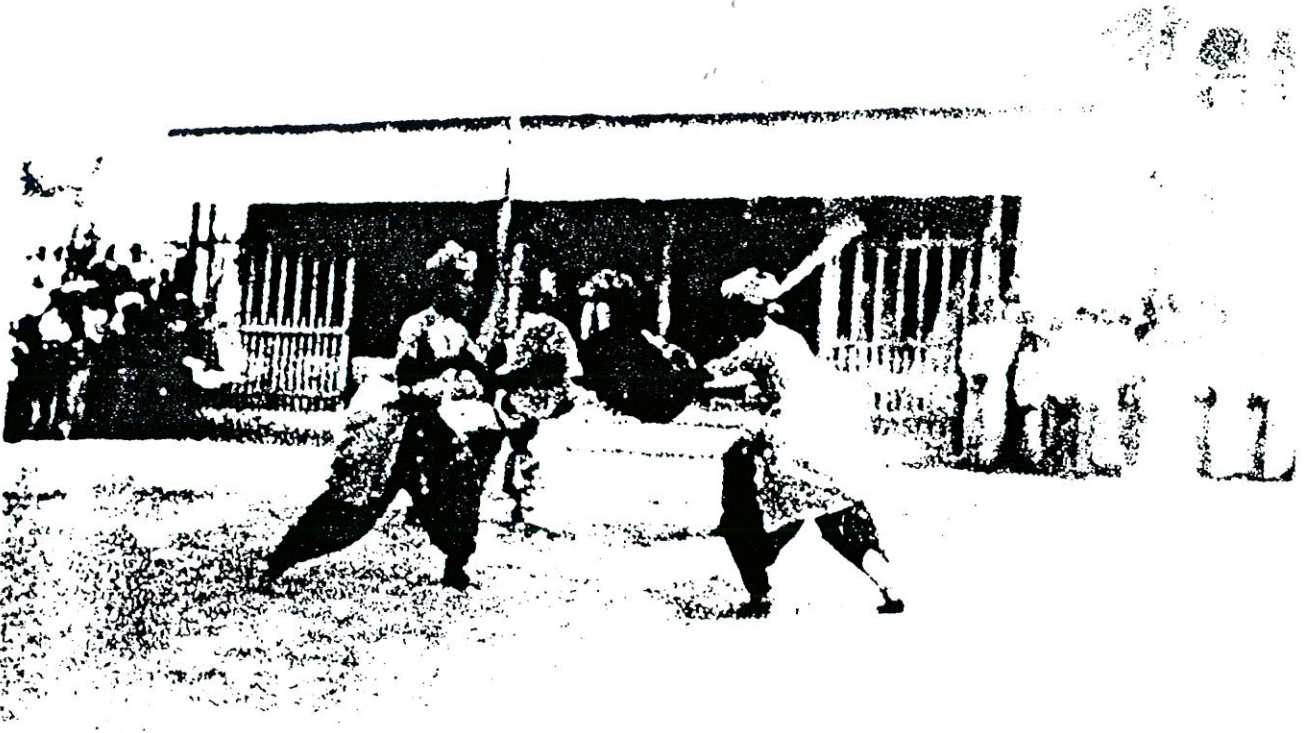
Occupation. At the census of 1931, 58 per cent of the male population of the Maldives were returned as earners and among females 25 per cent as earners against 65 per cent of males and 50 per cent of females as earners in 1921, respectively. There seems to be a slight drop among male and a 100 per cent drop among female earners in 1931, the reason for these differences is not explained, perhaps it may be due to trade depression or laziness or both on the part of the female earners. The Ceylon percentage of earners among males was 59 and 32 among females in 1921; here also show almost the same unaccountable drop among male and female earners.

The following tables show the principal occupations in which the largest number of males and females in each atoll were engaged. Full details are to be found in the tables in Vol. II of the census for 1931.

Table No. 18 Percentage of Male earners engaged in Principal Occupation, one per cent and over of the total population in each atoll of the Maldivive Islands for 1931.

Maldivive Islands	Carpenters	Cloth Weavers	Cultivators	Dependents on Government	Medical Practitioners	Domestic Servants	Fishermen	Gold and Silver Smiths	Quran Teachers	Net Makers	Match Makers	Toddy Drawers	Traders	Basket Makers	Blacksmiths	Wasons	Fallors
Miladummati-Atoll	3	1	2	1	2	41	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1
Miladumadulu Atoll N.	3	3	1	1	3	41	1	1	1	1	5	2	1	1	1	1	1
Miladumadulu Atoll S.	3	1	1	1	1	28	6	1	1	1	6	6	2	1	1	1	1
Maemadulu Atoll N.	4	1	1	1	1	51	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Maemadulu Atoll S.	2	2	1	1	1	48	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paifofolu Atoll	3	1	1	1	1	44	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1
Male Atoll	2	1	1	1	1	48	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
Male' Island	1	1	20	1	10	52	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

(Vol. II =
Appendix)



MALDIVE SPEAR FENCING in MALE.
PHOTO ca. 1930. L. Vilgon Lib.

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Table No. 18 Continued.

Island	Carpenters	Cloth Weavers	Cultivators	Dependents on Government	Medical Practitioners	Domestic Servants	Fishermen	Gold and Silver Smiths	Govt. Servants	Quran Teachers	Net Makers	Thatch Makers	Toddy Drawers	Traders	Basket Makers	Blacksmiths	Masons	Tailors	
Male Atoll	2	-	-	-	1	52	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Male' Island	1	-	20	1	10	4	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ari Atoll	4	3	-	-	5	45	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Felidi Atoll	2	-	-	-	1	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mulaku Atoll	2	-	-	-	1	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nilande Atoll N.	3	-	-	-	1	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nilande Atoll S.	2	-	-	-	1	48	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kolumadulu Atoll	2	-	-	-	1	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haddummati Atoll	3	14	-	-	1	38	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Huwadu Atoll	4	1	-	-	1	45	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fua Mulaku Island	3	7	6	-	5	24	2	-	-	-	-	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Addu Atoll	2	2	4	-	1	31	1	-	-	-	1	2	4	2	-	-	-	-	-

Table No. 19 Percentage of Female Earners engaged in Principal Occupations, one per cent and over of the Total Female Population in each atoll of the Maldives

Islands for 1951	Islands for 1951													
	Corn Kernels	Knives	Collectors	Dependents on Government	Medical Practitioners	Domestic Servants	Quran Teachers	Face Makers	Hat Makers	Midwives	Solid Weavers	Shatch	Hakkers	Maldivians
Maldivo Islands	18	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	1	1	1	2	-
Tiladummati Atoll	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	-	-	-
Miladumadulu Atoll N	36	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Miladumadulu Atoll S	8	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Malomedulu Atoll N	16	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Malomedulu Atoll S	20	4	-	-	-	1	1	6	-	1	-	-	-	-
Fadiffolu Atoll	4	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Male' Atoll	1	-	-	-	1	5	-	18	-	1	-	-	-	-
Male' Island	17	1	-	5	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	-	-
Ari Atoll	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Felidi Atoll	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mulaku Atoll	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	7	-
Nilande Atoll N	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
Nilande Atoll S	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Kolumadulu Atoll	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Haddummati Atoll	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Huwadu Atoll	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
Fua Mulaku Island	1	-	9	-	-	5	-	17	-	1	-	-	-	-

Nearly 47 per cent of the male earners depend on fishing for their livelihood. The fish is mostly dried and exported chiefly to Ceylon and a few hundred hundredweights to India. Dried fish called "Maldive Fish" is largely used by the Ceylonese and Indians, to flavour their curries and sambols, etc.

The following values of exports of this commodity to Ceylon are given by Mr. Bell, 1860 - £ 13,098; 1870 - £ 25,696; 1880 - £ 32,919; 1890 - £ 70,914; 1900 - £ 172,040; 1910 - £ 187,709; 1919 - £ 209,382; and he remarks that "the striking growth in importation amounts to very nearly 1500 per cent during the past sixty years."

The value of dry fish exported during 1930 was £ 316,666, which is an increase of 66 per cent over that of 1919. The exports from Ceylon to Maldives also show a progressive increase from £ 89,285 to £ 137,142; or about 65 per cent in ten years 1920-1930.

The approximate value of the trade of the Maldives in 1930 was Rs 6,807,120/- showing a visible balance of trade in favour of the Maldives of Rs 2,692,860/- but, when the middle men's profits of one and half millions of rupees are eliminated, the probable income per head of the population would not be more than Rs 15.12 against an income of Rs 3.71 per head in Ceylon in 1931. In the Bhopal state in India, the income per head of its population in 1931, was only about Rs 1.60.

At the Census of 1931, those engaged in fishing numbered 17,616 (all males) against 14,760 in 1921, and increase during the decade, of 19 per cent over 1921. In 1931 out of 58 per cent of male earners 41 per cent were returned as engaged in fishing against 39 per cent in 1921.

The next industry of importance is coir-making in which 6,485

- 30. Umbala Kada in Sinhalese
- 31. Bell "Report on a visit to Male", 1921.
- 32. For calculating the Ceylon figures, I am indebted to Trade figures contained in the "Annual General Report" Ceylon 1934.
- 33. Wide Letter No. 1065 of 12th April 1924, from the Secretary.



MALDIVE SPEAR FENCING in MALE,
PHOTO ca. 1930. L. Vilgon Lib.

were engaged (all females) against 9,224 in 1921, which show a considerable decrease over the figure for 1921, though the requirement of yarn must have increased with the increase of population for different purposes. According to latest reports from the Maldives, this industry in dying out and its importation from Ceylon, in large quantities is reported. The coir of the Maldives, has been known for centuries for its light colour, fineness and strength. The Portuguese in the olden days, used to buy ropes required for their fleets, mostly from the Maldives. The best coir is reputed to be made in Filadummati and Addu-Atolls.

Next in importance comes Lace making in which 1,122 females were engaged against 1,586 in 1921, a drop of 29 per cent but show a considerable increase over the 1911 figures (322). 3 per cent among male earners were engaged in carpentry work with 1,283 carpenters against 1,133 in 1921, but show a decrease from the figures for 1911 (1,470).

Cultivators are only 2 per cent of male earners who number 640 males and 110 females. Fua Mulaku is the only island where 9 per cent of its female earners engaged in Agriculture. Haddummati atol has the largest number of cultivators with 14 per cent among male earners. Next comes again Fua Mulaku with 6 per cent among its male earners.

1 per cent for the whole of the Maldives was returned as being under Government service.

For other occupations see Volume 11 of tables. Infirmities. The following table shows the figures relating to the blind, the deaf mute, and the insane persons in the Maldives.

Table No. 20. Number of totally blind, dumb and insane persons of each sex in the Maldives in 1921 and 1931 and their proportion for 10,000 of each sex of the population. Ceylon figures for 1921 included for comparison.

1	B L I N D		D U M B		I N S A N E	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Total No. in the Maldives: 1921	2	3	4	5	7	8
Proportion per 10,000 in the Maldives: 1921	14.7	70	77	82	53	29
Proportion per 10,000 in Ceylon: 1921	97	41	57	91	51	40
	20.9	18.0	23.9	11.7	14.0	9.0
	12.3	9.5	15.8	11.5	11.8	11.1
	8.9	9.9	7.8	6.0	6.6	5.4
					4.6	5.7
					3.4	

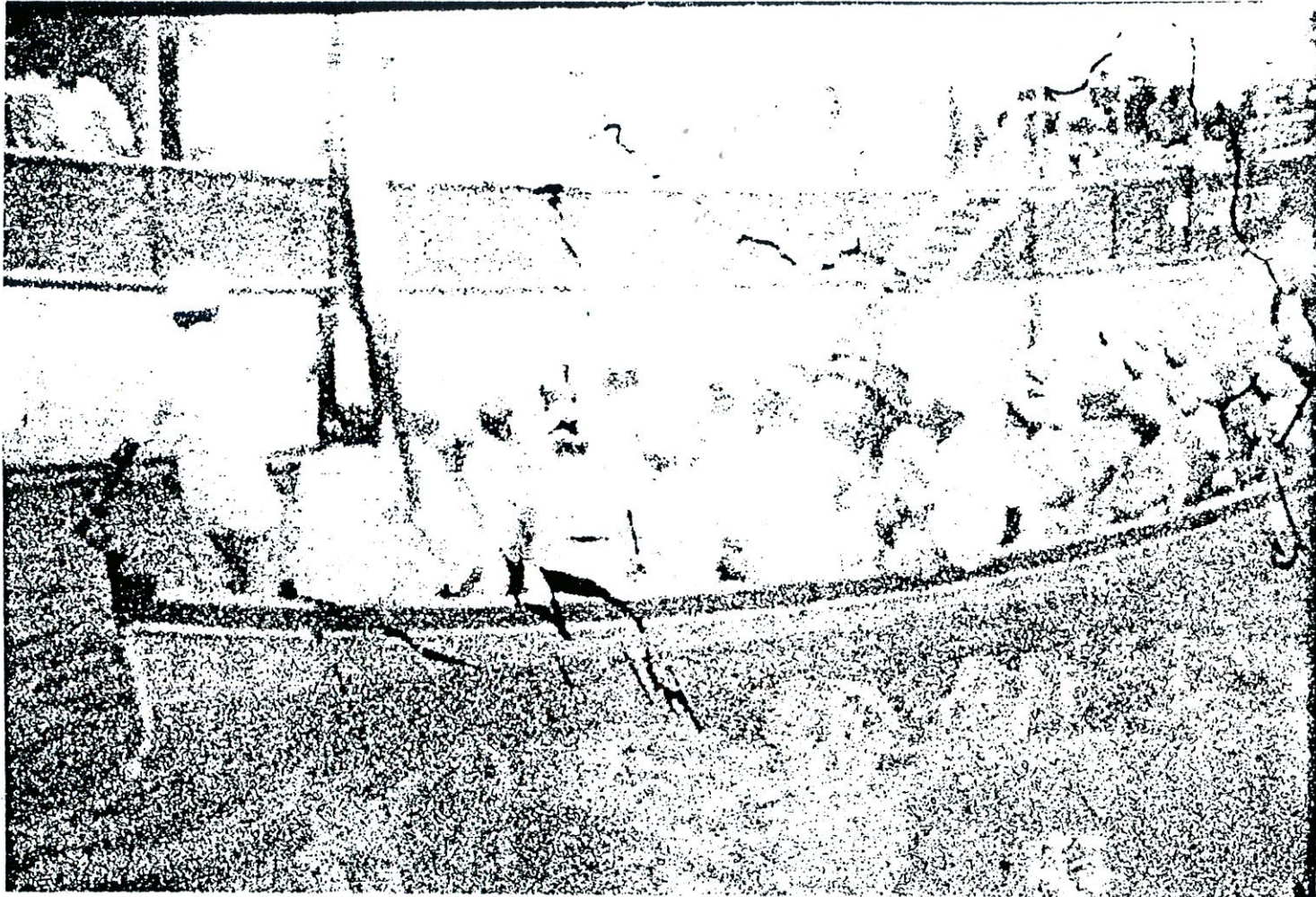
From the above table it would appear, that, in most of the cases, proportions of the blind, the deaf mutes, and the insane in the Maldives, are very much higher than her big sister, Ceylon, except in the proportions of blind and insane males in 1921. "Pyrard records" says Mr. Denham in "Ceylon at the Census of 1911", page 509, "that the eye sickness is common enough and you see great numbers of people blind and most of them have short sight". In Mr. Denham's opinion Pyrard was referring to "night blindness".

The high proportion of the blindness is probably due to the intense glare of the rays of the sun falling on the white sand. For Mr. Bell remarks "..... A tropical sun in a brezon sky, beating down on blinding white streets and garden compounds of finely powdered coral, renders the heat and glare, untempered by shade trees or breeze, very trying in the day time."

Elephantiasis is common, especially in Huvedu atoll and cases of lymphoedema have been found mostly in that atoll. Isolation of such cases is strictly observed by order of Government.

Most diseases in the islands may be ascribed to bad water and living in insanitary houses and surroundings. The number of wells and tanks was very large (11,305) in 1931 against 9,868 in 1921.

24. Bell "Report on a visit to Mal..."



MALDIVE STATE BARGE at MALDIVE SHIP,
PHOTO ca. 1920, L. Vilgon Lib.

Inhabitants. The Maldive Islands are at present peopled by a semi-civilized race of Aryan origin, with characteristics both of the Arian and Dravidian types. Many of the types are similar to those found in Ceylon.

The men are usually of a dark brown colour, but the leisure classes of Male' and other islands, have a lighter complexion, which may be due to intermarriage with fair skinned aliens of a pure race. Naturally women are somewhat fairer than the men, they have regular features and chapey figures, bordering on what I may call beautifulness.

General Character. As a race, the Maldivians are inoffensive, timid, and a suspicious people, due probably to their long isolation. Their conduct are humane and hospitable towards each other, and kind and obliging to strangers. They assist quite willingly each other if occasion arises, and affectionate to their kith and kin.

Crimes. Crimes of a heinous character are not often heard of in these islands, and even personal violence and theft are of rare occurrence except perhaps, at Male' where foreigners live and trade.

As regards the inhabitants of Male, says Mr. Bell,³⁵ "It is pleasant to record, with the experience born of close observation, that a delightful spirit of ease and contentment seems to prevail universally. So far as can be judged, the natives appear to be healthy and well to do" (not by their own exertions)" They go about their respective business cheerfully and with an air of settled purpose and determination, preserving the while, the silent observant demesour which customarily marks the Muhammadan..... Male', with its own quaint self centered ways, is, in certain respects, Utopia which, at heart, desires nothing so greatly as to be left by the outside world as much as possible alone, to 'lotus-eat' undisturbed in its sea-girt happy isolation.³⁶

35. Bell's Report on a visit to Male', 1921, pp 53 and 54.

36. Bell "Report on a visit to Male'", 1921.

The Dress. The ordinary dress of men consists of short drawers (M. Haruvalu) tied at the knee; a sarong wrapped round the waist after the Sinhalese fashion (M. Mundu), and a kerchief twisted over the head (M. Ruma), and with a short shirt (M. Libas) now in common use, completes the dress of a Maldivian. The use of slippers or shoes and umbrellas, are now permitted.

The women's apparel invariably consists of a waist cloth of chocolate colour, relieved by black and white stripes (M. Feli) a chemise fashion upper garment reaching up to the knee made of fancy striped cloth and edged at the neck with gold and silver lace (M. Libas) and a kerchief bound over the hair knot. They also wear necklaces, ear-rings, bracelets and rings as ornaments. Boys and girls until they attain the age of 9 or 10 years, only wear a waist cloth (M. Feli or Mundu) as the case may be with appropriate ornaments for boys and girls.

Social Distinction. There is practically not much distinction between classes now, as was the case in olden days. The only difference now observed is that between Royalties, their near relatives and "Didi" class and the rest. The evil of Caste System as we see so jealously observed in India and Ceylon is fortunately absent in the Maldive Islands.

Colombo 15th December 1935.

E.A.H. Didi

37. M. Didi pronounced as (thee thee)

Generally the children of a union between a female member and a male member of the 3rd Generation, of the Royal Family



SULTAN NUR-UD-DIN at MAIN BASTION in MALE.
PHOTO ca 1940. L.Vilgon Lib.

AP. 1
P. 2

Census of Malc' Island

1350, (1931)

L I T E R A T E S.

	M A L E S		F E M A L E S				
	20 & Over English	20 & Over Arabic	0-9	10-14	15-19	20 & over	Totals
Maldivians	22	32	33	205	276	1724	2500
Borahs	-	-	-	4	120	121	124
Malayalees	-	-	-	10	54	28	64
Moors	-	-	-	1	36	27	37
Tamils	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Sinhalese	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	22	32	33	220	487	1901	2566

Appendix 1.

P. 1

Census of Malc' Island.

1350, (1931)

Nationalities. M A L E S. F E M A L E S

Nationalities	M A L E S		F E M A L E S		Totals
	Unmarried.	Married.	Unmarried.	Married.	
Maldivians	1131	1112	510	936	2564
Borahs	113	126	6	-	245
Malayalees	63	29	-	-	92
Moors	32	32	-	-	64
Tamils	2	-	-	-	2
Sinhalese	-	-	-	1	2
Totals	1521	1299	516	937	2566

Census of Male Island

1350, (1931)

Nationalities Resident in Male'.

Nationalities	M A L E S		F E M A L E S		Grand Total
	Borahs	Malayalees	Moors	Ceylonese	
Maldivians	2933	2564	245	92	5800
Males Females	2933	2564	245	64	5800
Males	2933	2564	245	2	5800
Females	2564	245	64	2	3336
Totals	2933	2564	245	64	5800

L I L L I T E R A T E S

	M A L E S		F E M A L E S		
	0-9	10-14	15-19	20 & over	Totals
Maldivians	341	145	64	91	641
Totals	341	145	64	91	641

Maldivians 341 145 64 91 310 147 52 253



MUHAMMAD TARIKURUFAANU, TOMB in MALE,
PHOTO ca 1940. L.Vilgon Lib.

Apt
P.A.

Census of Male Island, 1950 (1931).

OCCUPATIONS.

	Males	Females
Judge.	1	-
Law Officers	4	-
High Priests	4	-
Mudime (Mihirab Priests)	4	-
Hooque Priests	33	-
Arabio Teachers	2	-
Quran Teachers	17	5
Navigation Teachers	2	-
Writers	63	-
Astronomers	3	-
Barbers	9	-
Widdives	-	17
Shrine Keepers	3	-
Government Servants	303	60
Government Dependents	590	132
Medical Practitioners	17	9
Charmers	22	-
Fabricators	2	-
Goldsmiths	10	-
Wood Workers	6	-
Lacquer Workers	12	-
Blacksmiths	18	-
Net Makers	1	-
Carpenters	34	-
Lace Makers	-	449
Tailors	123	-
Readers	257	-
Magons	86	-
Wrinding Stone Makers	1	-
Cotton Spinners	2	-
Knappers	100	-
Waghars	12	2
Domestic Servants	300	118
Dependents on Fathers	600	612
Dependents on Mothers	15	214
Dependents on Children	4	80
Dependents on Relations	130	152
Dependents on Husbands	-	705
Beggars	3	3
Foreigners	403	2

Appendix 1 P. 3

Census of Male Island, 1950 (1931)

Ages	M A L E S			F E M A L E S		
	Unmarried	Married	Widowed	Unmarried	Married	Widowed
0 - 1	65	-	-	67	-	-
1	37	-	-	33	-	-
2	60	-	-	58	-	-
3	75	-	-	55	-	-
4	73	-	-	70	-	-
5 - 9	64	-	-	52	-	-
10 - 14	350	-	-	329	10	8
15 - 19	291	30	19	226	28	17
20 - 24	238	46	30	140	225	93
25 - 29	35	125	85	3	250	60
30 - 34	12	204	91	2	223	44
35 - 39	1	115	45	1	93	16
40 - 44	7	222	79	-	141	58
45 - 49	1	73	34	-	51	19
50 - 54	-	141	53	-	59	62
55 - 59	-	41	15	-	20	27
60 - 64	2	67	34	-	19	49
65 - 69	-	22	8	-	1	15
70 - 74	-	13	7	-	3	17
75 - 79	-	6	4	-	1	10
80 - 84	-	5	4	-	-	7
85 - 89	-	1	1	-	1	1
90 - 94	-	1	1	-	-	-
Foreigners	1311	1112	510	936	1125	503
	210	187	6	1	1	-
Totals	1521	1299	516	937	1126	503



BRITISH MILITARY ORCHESTRA at MALE,
PHOTO 1965, L.Vilgon Lib.

Census of Male' Island, 1350 (1931).

Ap. 1
P. 5

Houses, Mosques, Tanks, Walls, Ships, Boats etc.

Total Houses	1063
Chief Court	1
Naibunges (Houses of Naibus)	4
Arabic Schools	2
Quran Schools	22
Navigation Schools	2
Dispensaries	26
Buildings with corrugated roofing	214
Buildings with tiled roofing	14
Wooden houses with corrugated roofing	714
Buildings with thatched roof	7
Thatched houses	57
Mosques	33
Graveyards	27
Wells	1899
Tanks	74
Lakes (ditches)	2
Maizanges (Travellers Rests)	4
Motor Vessel	1
Brigs	4
Bagalow	1
Dangi	1
Zoats	6
Fishing odies	6
Fishing dhonies	30
Rowing boats	7
Coconut trees	677

Ap. 1
P. 6

Census of Male Island
1350, (1931).

I N F I R M I T I E S

	Males	Females
Blind	6	4
Insane	1	-
Dumb	1	2
	8	6

F O R E I G N S H O P S

Shops of Borahs	50
Shops of Malayalees	17
Shops of Ceylon Mboors	



JUBILEE PAVILION in MALE,
PHOTO 1965. L.VILGON lib.

APPENDIX 2

Census of Male Island, 1950 (1931)

Birth Places of those who were residing at Male' Island.

Name of Atoll	Name of Island	Males	Females
<u>Miladummeti Atoll</u>	Nolivarafaru	16	8
	Ilanimadu	2	1
	Muraidu	5	2
	Filladu	4	1
	Kela	3	1
	Utimu	3	1
	Diddu	1	1
	Miladu	7	-
	Uligomu	2	-
	Turakunu	1	-
	Hatifuri	1	1
	Huvarafuri	10	10
	Ihavandu	4	-
	Takandu	12	6
	Hodaidu	-	1
	Finay	9	1
Hiramaradu	1	1	
Kurinbi	2	-	
Melladu	1	-	
Nawaidu	1	-	
Nolivaramu	16	1	
Kuluduffuri	24	20	
Kumundu	1	2	
Mavaidu	1	-	
Nektrendu	3	-	
Vaikaradu	1	1	
Mamakundu	1	-	
Magudu	5	-	

Miladummadulu Atoll

North

Appendix P.2

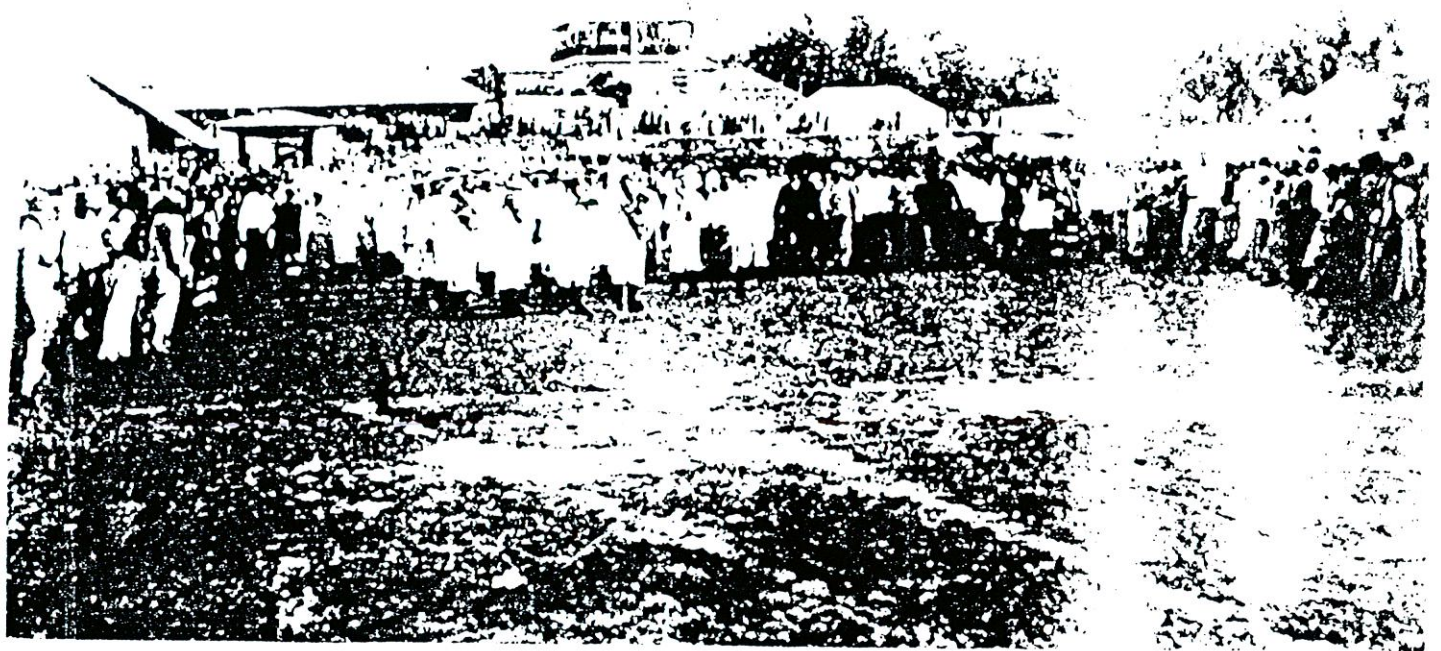
Census of Male' Island, 1950, (1931).

Birth Places of those who were residing at Male' Island

Name of Atoll	Name of Island	Males	Females
<u>Miladummadulu Atoll North</u>	Brought Forward	137	59
	Firibaidu	-	1
	Lasimagu	2	1
	Makadudu	2	1
	Feeva	1	1
	Fedu	4	2
	Kaditimu	1	-
	Bileffahi	2	1
	Manadu	18	15
	Landu	1	1
	Kuludu	1	-
	Kudafari	2	1
	Kuredivaru	3	1
	Lohi	2	2
	Miladu	4	2
Welidu	1	1	
Holudu	2	1	
Foddu	1	-	
Fainu	6	7	
Kinolos	-	1	
Maduvari	2	3	
Alifuri	2	1	
Gaududu	2	3	
Ugulu	5	5	
Mekuratu	1	-	
Rasmadu	1	5	
Innamadu	1	-	
Inguraidu	3	1	
Carried Forward			

Carried Forward

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BRITISH NAVY ORCESTRA in MALE,
PHOTO 1965. L.Vilgon Lib.

Ap. 2. P. 3

Census of Male' Island 1950 (1951)

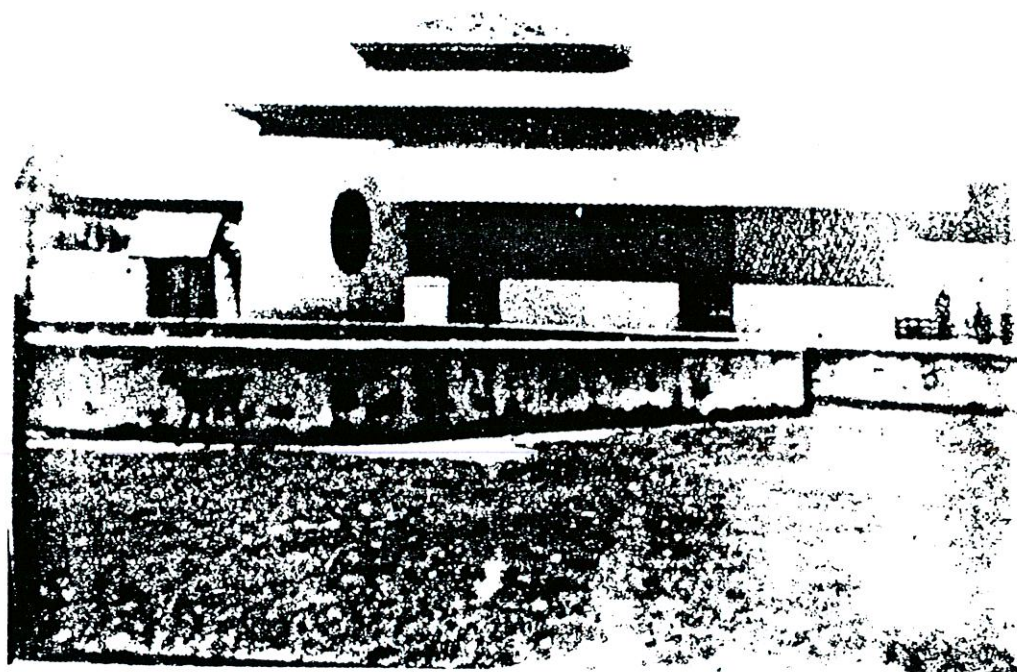
Birth Places of those who were residing at Male' Island:

<u>Name of Atoll</u>	<u>Name of Island</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
<u>Malomadulu Atoll South</u>	Brought Forward	207	116
	Daravandu	3	4
	Malos	3	6
	Haddu	4	-
	Hitedu	2	1
	Edafuri	8	12
	Zehendu	1	-
	Kendu	3	2
	Twasadu	1	2
	Umladu	5	9
	Kudavikili	3	1
	Kemadu	2	7
	Kihadu	1	-
	Donfanu	1	-
	Hinnavaru	2	13
<u>Male' Atoll</u>	Kurendu	-	1
	Karidu	9	10
	Gafaru	6	9
	Dizfuri	8	9
	Tulusu	4	8
	Hura	5	3
	Himmafuri	4	-
	Hulule	3	4
	Wilingili	10	9
	Giravaru	5	2
	Guli	4	5
	Guraidu	3	4
	Mafuri	-	1
	Heduvari	4	2
	Rakidu	8	8
Tinasu	2	3	
Carried Forward		327	261

Census of Male' Island 1950 (1951)

Birth Places of those who were residing at Male' Island

<u>Name of Atoll</u>	<u>Name of Island</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
<u>Mulaku Atoll</u>	Brought Forward	321	251	
	Mulaku	7	10	
	Muli	2	-	
	Malafuri	2	2	
	Wariyafuri	-	1	
	Kuramati	2	1	
	Toddu	6	3	
	Ukulahu	1	1	
	Mativeri	1	1	
	Feridu	-	3	
<u>Arif Atoll</u>	Malohu	-	3	
	Mamigili	1	-	
	Kuburudu	1	-	
	Midu (Hanna)	-	1	
	Midu	3	4	
	Badidu	5	3	
	Bileddu	1	-	
	Maugudu	9	1	
	Milendu	-	1	
	Himiti	8	3	
<u>Milendy Atoll South</u>	Fecali	1	-	
	Kudshuvadu	3	1	
	Mzebudu	1	2	
	Vani	1	6	
	Gemendu	3	10	
	Rimbudu	6	9	
	Huludali	2	-	
	Carried Forward		389	316



OFFICIAL BUILDING in MALE,
PHOTO 1965. L. Vilgon Lib.

Census of Male' Island 1950, (1931)
Birth Places of those who were residing at Male' Island

<u>Name of Atoll</u>	<u>Name of Island</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
<u>Kolumadulu Atoll</u>	Brought Forward	389	318
	Vemundu	1	-
	Gedifuri	4	1
	Guraidu	4	3
	Madifuri	2	1
	Wilifuri	2	4
	Burni	3	1
	Kandudu	13	16
	Handu	6	5
	Hiriandu	2	3
	Omudu	12	9
	Kinbidu	1	-
	Isdu	3	4
	Dambidu	5	1
	Kalaidu	1	-
	Gang	2	1
	Fonadu	9	3
Gadu	2	2	
Mamendu	1	1	
Kunahardu	-	1	
Hava	1	1	
<u>Howadu Atoll</u>	Havaru Tibandu	6	14
	Ma'cu	1	-
	Kodei	2	2
	Manenu	1	1
	Wilinjili	1	1
Mafuri	4	5	
		Carried Forward	475
			390

Census of Male' Island 1950, (1931)
Birth Places of those who were residing at Male' Island.

<u>Name of Atoll</u>	<u>Name of Island</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
<u>Addu Atoll</u>	Brought Forward	475	390
	Midu	3	-
	Huludu	1	3
	Fedu	1	-
	Maradu	3	1
	Hitedu	5	2
<u>Fua Mulaku Island.</u>	Fua Mulaku	12	5
	Minicoy	4	3
<u>Foreigners</u>	Mecca	-	1
	India	337	-
	Ceylon	66	2
	Egypt	2	1
<u>Totals</u>		909	408



MAIN STREET in MALE from the PALACE,
PHOTO 1965, L.Vilgon Lib.

P.1

APPENDIX 3

Census of Maldives, 1950, (1931).

Name of Atolls.	M A L E S			F E M A L E S			T O T A L
	Unmar-ried	Marr-ied	Widow-ed	Unmar-ried	Marr-ied	Widow-ed	
Tiladummati Atoll	3455	2834	540	2593	2846	658	6107
Miladummadulu Atoll (North)	844	760	233	583	760	147	1490
Miladummadulu Atoll (South)	1481	1182	260	1080	1190	213	2483
Malosmadulu Atoll (North)	1648	1223	321	1148	1231	283	2662
Malosmadulu Atoll (South)	1242	880	216	748	885	178	1811
Fadiffolu Atoll	1481	859	182	1058	873	288	2219
Male' Island	1521	1299	516	937	1126	503	2566
Male' Atoll	802	594	241	537	501	130	1268
Felidi Atoll	1107	904	298	628	910	213	1751
Mulaku Atoll	631	428	94	329	428	97	854
Nilande Atoll (North)	473	350	145	280	349	52	681
Nilande Atoll (South)	517	406	69	311	406	77	794
Kolumadulu Atoll	634	488	106	412	488	88	988
Haddummati Atoll	1337	928	247	862	940	210	2012
Huwadu Atoll	844	643	194	492	644	156	1292
Fua Mulaku Island	2168	1744	270	1608	1770	496	3874
Addu Atoll	614	368	131	451	370	192	1013
Totals	22250	16786	4199	15001	16720	4235	43235

Apr 3 P. 2

Census of Maldives, 1950, (1931)

L I T E R A T E S

Name of Atolls.	M A L E S			F E M A L E S		
	20 & over Arabic	10-14 English	0-9	20 & over Arabic	10-14 English	0-9
Tiladummati Atoll	3	8	251	493	2689	20
Miladummadulu Atoll (North)	-	5	76	101	721	1
Miladummadulu Atoll (South)	1	31	185	240	1405	20
Malosmadulu Atoll (North)	-	18	72	164	651	16
Malosmadulu Atoll (South)	-	16	119	134	840	8
Fadiffolu Atoll	6	10	125	89	704	16
Male' Island	32	33	220	487	1901	25
Male' Atoll	1	20	151	124	671	19
Ari Atoll	-	16	56	251	1131	3
Felidi Atoll	-	14	65	138	572	11
Mulaku Atoll	-	12	89	101	509	4
Nilande Atoll (North)	-	3	66	82	538	5
Nilande Atoll (South)	-	4	33	153	531	-
Kolumadulu Atoll	-	7	135	199	936	-
Haddummati Atoll	1	12	47	94	365	7
Huwadu Atoll	2	18	280	529	2037	7
Fua Mulaku Island	-	2	58	103	574	-
Addu Atoll	14	18	206	191	743	10
Totals	60	247	2234	3673	17518	172

20 & over 15-19 over 10-14 15-19 over 0-9 10-14 15-19 over 0-9 10-14 15-19 over 20 & over 172 1753 3345 12003



SULTANs PALACE YARD in MALE,
PHOTO 1965, L.Vilgon Lib.

Apr 3. P.3

Census of Maldives 1950 (1931)

I L L I T E R A T E S.

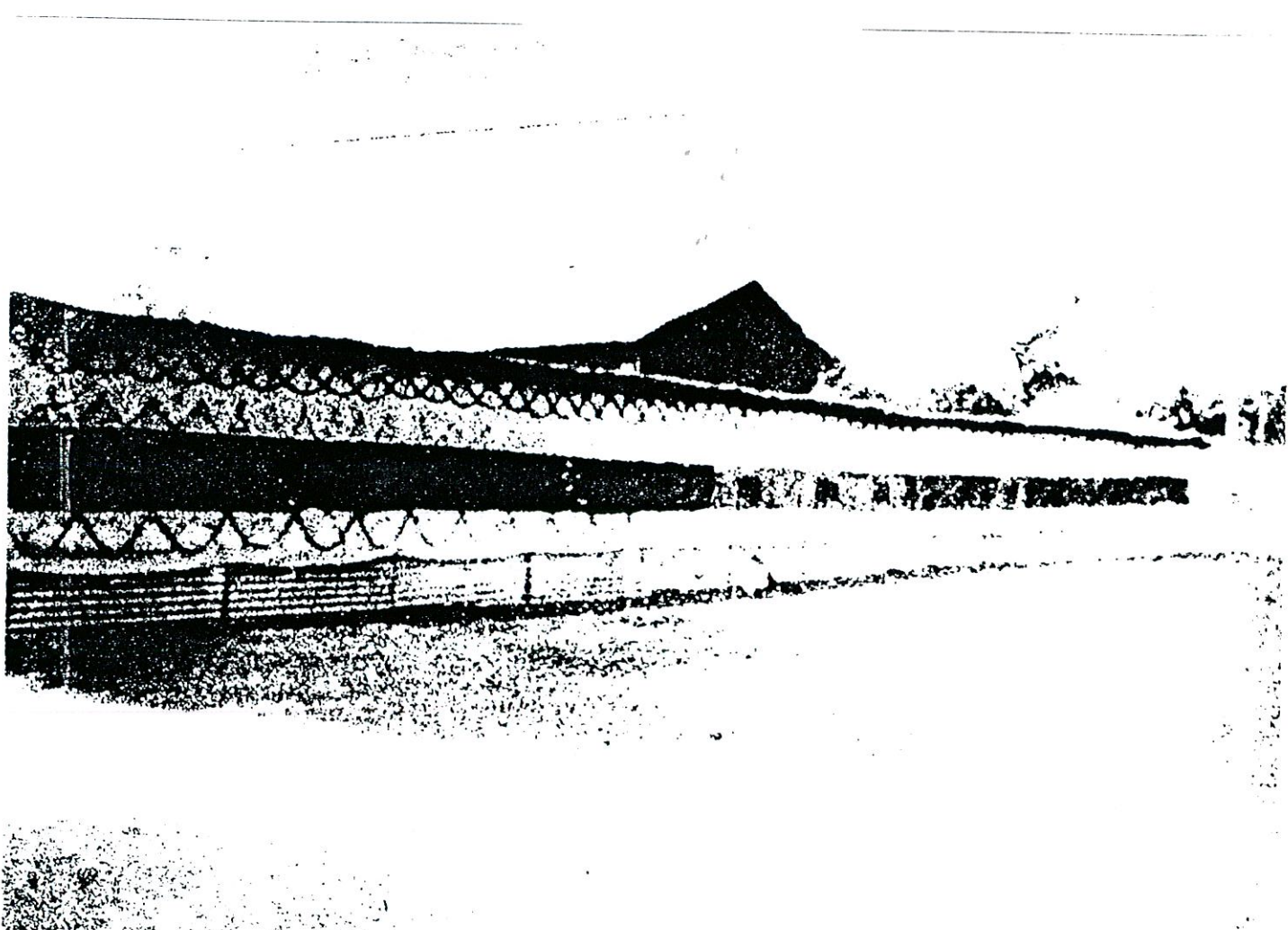
Name of Atolls.	M A L E S					F E M A L E S				
	0-9	10-14	15-19	20&over	0-9	10-14	15-19	20 & over		
Tiladummati Atoll	1248	595	302	1240	1210	557	372	1183		
Miladummadulu Atoll (North)	483	90	102	259	418	30	119	262		
Miladummadulu Atoll (South)	515	127	68	351	504	88	35	244		
Malosmadulu Atoll (North)	842	289	202	954	741	211	245	873		
Malosmadulu Atoll (South)	408	125	95	601	361	111	52	402		
Fadiffollu Atoll	799	167	189	433	710	161	169	525		
Male' Island	341	145	64	91	310	147	52	253		
Male' Atoll	275	81	63	291	213	75	47	330		
Ari Atoll	306	184	64	301	289	200	98	196		
Felidi Atoll	295	53	6	-	225	24	1	3		
Mulaku Atoll	212	41	-	4	134	21	1	3		
Milande Atoll (North)	235	37	8	3	223	51	47	320		
Milande Atoll (South)	216	89	57	145	223	90	79	32		
Kolumadhi Atoll	463	285	173	334	426	219	195	261		
Haddummati Atoll	422	107	102	531	356	63	73	395		
Huwadu Atoll	667	369	106	174	784	487	192	304		
Fua Mulaku Island	279	50	28	19	269	41	24	27		
Addu Atoll	659	146	93	413	501	109	112	386		
Totals	8645	2990	1722	6124	8071	2734	1913	6049		

Apr 3 P.4

Census of Maldives, 1950 (1931)

M A L E S

Ages	M A L E S			F E M A L E		
	Unmarried.	Married.	Widowed.	Unmarried.	Married.	Widowed.
0 - 1	1158	-	-	1167	-	-
1	1135	-	-	1068	-	-
2	1245	-	-	1164	-	-
3	1348	-	-	1223	-	-
4	1318	-	-	1283	-	-
5 - 9	2688	-	-	2344	-	-
10 - 14	5209	-	-	4041	316	130
15 - 19	4143	735	306	1051	2617	590
20 - 24	2765	2002	622	508	3976	534
25 - 29	584	2450	580	70	2860	333
30 - 34	252	2553	486	36	2125	309
35 - 39	43	2208	334	14	1575	231
40 - 44	65	1795	323	11	1201	298
45 - 49	20	1367	273	5	773	283
50 - 54	34	1137	259	8	595	364
55 - 59	6	1003	264	1	359	383
60 - 64	17	810	359	5	242	431
65 - 69	5	296	164	-	46	151
70 - 74	1	157	122	-	26	100
75 - 79	4	48	50	1	6	40
80 - 84	-	28	29	-	1	20
85 - 89	-	6	12	-	-	12
90 - 94	-	1	8	-	1	-
95 - 99	-	3	2	-	-	1
Foreigners	22040	16599	4193	15000	16719	4325
Totals.	22250	16786	4199	15001	16720	4325



SPECTATORS PAVILION in MALE,
PHOTO 1965, L.Vilgon Lib.

	Male	Female		
Judge	11		Total Houses	15043
Law Officers	207		Chief Court House	1
High Priests	342		Law Offices	207
Muhtim Mhrab Priests	4		Arabic Schools	3
Mosques Caretaker Priests	310		Quran Schools	518
Arabic Teachers	3	126	Navigation Schools	34
Quran Teachers	375		Dispensaries	222
Navigation Teachers	38		Buildings with corrugated roofing	1401
Writers	38		Buildings with tiled roofing	115
Astronomers	63		Houses with corrugated roofing	2792
Barbers	42		Buildings with thatch	857
Shrine Keepers	3		Thatched houses	8996
Government Servants	358	60	Mosques	483
Government Dependents	590	132	Graveyards	445
Medical Practitioners	162	85	Wells	9703
Charmers	128		Tanks	1602
Embroiderers	2		Lakes (ditches)	20
Silvermiths	395		Kaizangas (Travellers Rests)	209
Wood Turners	33		Motor vessel	1
Lacquer Workers	12		Boat	4
Blacksmiths	253		Boat	1
Net Makers	175		Freight trading vessel (internal)	142
Carpenters	1283		Ocean going odios	65
Stone Workers	18		Fishing Odies	414
Lacquer Painters	1		Boats	6
Cloth Weavers	348		Boating dhonies	1841
Tailors	135		Rowing boats	7
Engravers	4		Coconut trees	47567
Traders	631	40	Shops of Kurahs	50
Masons	126		Shops of Maldivians	17
Cotton Ginners	2		Shops of Moors	13
Grinding Stone Makers	2		Foreign Shops	
Hat Makers	6	85		
Coir Net Makers	1			
Ekel Cover Makers		312		
Maldivo Hat Makers		166		
Cotton Spinners		170		
Cultivators	640	276		
Hidwives		448		
Thatch Makers	646	1122		
Lace Makers		223		
Sail Weavers		6485		
Coir Yarn Makers	60	27		
Blanket Makers	998	428		
Domestic Servants	592			
Toddy Drawers	17616			
Fishermon		128		
Cowrie Collectors		12		
Washers		12182		
Dependents on Fathers		3006		
Dependents on Mothers		394		
Dependents on Children		609		
Dependents on Relations				
Dependents on husbands				
Beggars				
Foreigners	42832	36044		



GIRLS in MALE STREET,
PHOTO ca 1930. L.Vilgon Lib.

AP. 3
P 7

Census of Maldives, 1950, (1931)

I.N.F.I.R.M.I.T.I.E.S.

Name of Atolle.	M.A.L.E.S		F.E.M.A.L.E.S	
	Blind	Inane Dumb	Blind	Inane Dumb
Miladummati	5	2	5	2
Miladummadulu Atoll(North)	1	-	-	1
Miladummadulu Atoll(South)	2	1	3	2
Malosmadulu Atoll(North)	4	3	14	2
Malosmadulu Atoll(South)	2	1	3	-
Fadiffolu Atoll	2	3	8	2
Male Island	6	1	4	-
Male Atoll	3	2	3	-
Ari Atoll	3	1	3	2
Feidi Atoll	-	-	-	-
Muleku Atoll	-	-	-	-
Nilande Atoll(North)	1	1	4	-
Nilande Atoll(South)	2	1	2	2
Kolumadulu Atoll	3	4	1	1
Haddummati Atoll	-	-	3	-
Huwadu Atoll	7	1	9	6
Fua Muleku Island	-	-	-	1
Addu Atoll	-	-	2	1
Totals.	41	21	57	17

AP. 3
P 8

Census of Maldives, 1950, (1931)

Incurables not included in any of the Schedules.

LEPERS.

Name of Atolls	Males.	Females.
Huwadu Atoll	290	229
Addu Atoll	58	48
Totals	348	277

Those suffering from Elephantiasis.

Name of Atoll	Males	Females
Huwadu Atoll	31	19

Totals. 41 21 51 57 17 40



MALDIVE COWRIES IN ZAMBIA.
PHOTO 1900. C. Vilgon Ltd.

1934. PLATT, ARTHUR JAMES.

IN: Report from the Laccadives and Minicoy by Collector A. J. PLATT at the Islands 1934. India Office Library and Records, MSS.; EUR, D.832. 18 P. 50 Photos. From an Inspection Voyage. London.

James Arthur Platt was acting as Collector in the Malabar during the 1930s, and he donated these papers in the 1950s to the India Office in London. The manuscripts are not official and they are two different reports. The first is a personal description about his visit to Minicoy, and the second is from a lecture about Minicoy that he held 1937. They are rather identical, but both have some different information.

[ENGLISH]

My tour also included Minicoy, which is geographically, ethnologically and linguistically one of the Maldive Islands, but happens by a historical accident to be a part of Malabar. It is quite different from the Laccadives though the people are also Mohammedans. They are of mixed Sinhalese and Arab descent, and speak Mahl, which is primitive Sinhalese with some Arab words, and is written in Arabic Characters.

Minicoy is also peculiar in that it is almost an island of Amazons. Most of the men go away on ships as Lascars for two or three years at a time. The male inhabitants are therefore chiefly old men and boys. In consequence the women have acquired considerable influence. It is they who teach the children to read and write Mahl. They have been able to enforce monogamy. Divorce is rare, Courtship is a recognized preliminary to marriage. As a courting present the man must give the girl a pouch made of a special grass plated in Ceylon or the Maldives, containing areca-nut clippers and other apparatus for the chewing of betel. Amongst the richer people the present includes a silver chain to which are attached silver tooth-picks and ear-probes.

The men wear turban, trousers or knickers with a white cloth and the upper part of the body is bare. All the women dress alike in a long overall with short sleeves, made of red cloth with thin black stripes, and have a folded blue handkerchief on the head. They wear many thin ear rings of gold or silver or thin black silk in the outer rim of the ear. Some wear silver bangles from wrist to elbow, as many as thirty on each arm.

Minicoy is divided into nine territorial sections known as "Attiris". Each is ruled by an elected headman known as a "Moopan". Each Attiro has a man's club and a women's club. The men's club is an unpretentious building with a large swinging divan. The women's club or "Varangi" on



SULTAN MUHAMMAD SHAMS-UD-DIN III,
PHOTO ca 1900, L.Vilgon Lib.

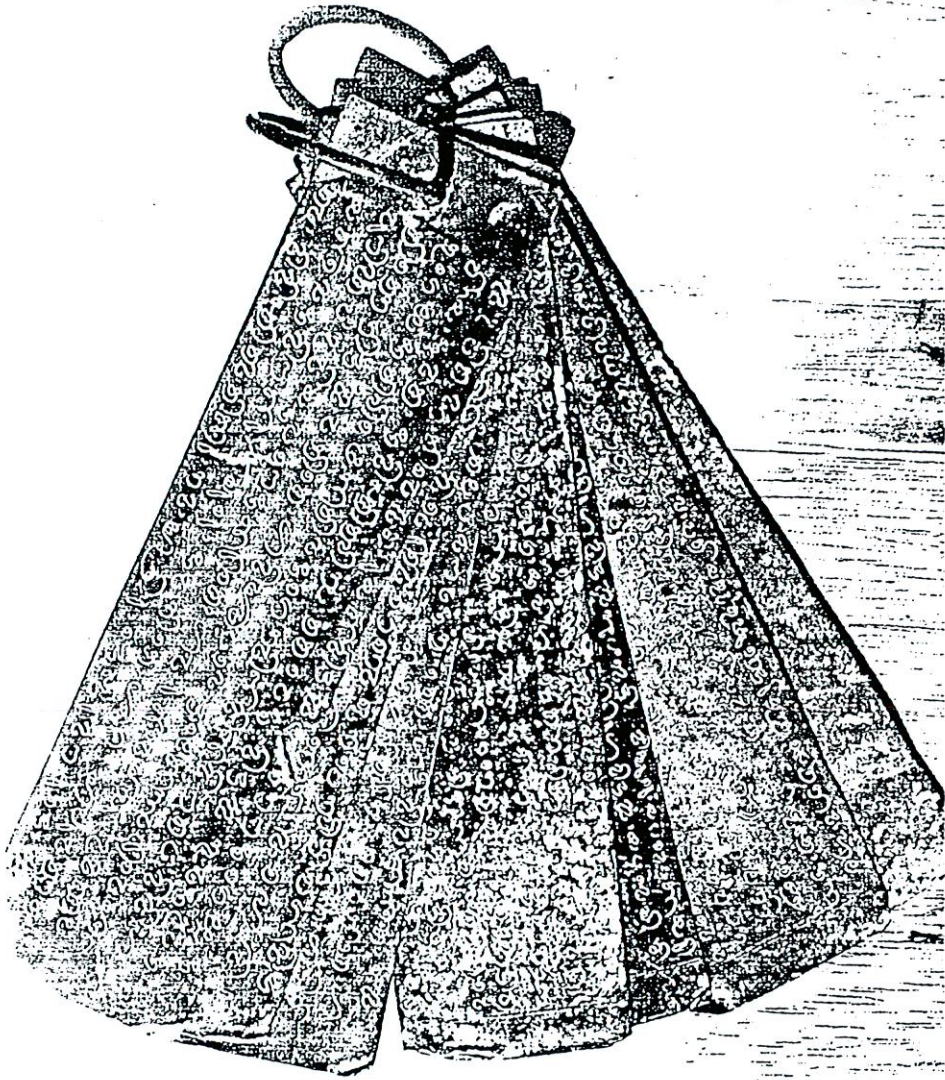
the other hand is a substantial tiled building built after the model of a stateroom of an old sailing ship. It has a panelled ceiling and doors and windows all beautifully carved and made of Burmese Teak. Inside all round the walls runs a low masonry seat where the women sit in the day time and twist coir and gossip while the children play on the floor. All the materials and labour are provided free by the men who get only food in return during the actual building. The Men's club of the different Attiris feast each other periodically.

Most of the men's clubs have a troupe of men dancers who dress uniformly. Each costume costs between £ 7 and £ 10 and is provided by the wearer. It is quite unique and consists of the following. A pair of striped silk trousers, pale gold in effect, cut wide at the feet. A white cloth with a red border tied at the waist so as to hang down the back to the ankles. Two triangular pieces of gaily coloured silk in purple, mauve, green, white and so on, tied round the waist with the corners hanging down the back. A belt of black silk strings with a silver snake clasp, wound two or three times round the waist and clasped at the back. A similar belt of silver or tinsel chains wound round the waist and fastened at the back. From this silver belt hang some long silk tassel in front and three long silk tassel at the back, silver keys, tooth-picks, ear-probes, betel-boxes, and so on also suspended from it at the back.

The upper part of the body is bare. A long cylindrical drum made of coconut wood laced with cowries hung over the left shoulder by a gray silk strap, and protected by a bright towel as apron. On the head is a brimless hat of silk, velvet or raffia with a blocked crown. Round this is wound a roll of silk to form a brim about four inches wide, the whole has a rather Spanish effect. In the brim and waist are a few flowers or leaves. The dancers do slow rhythmic dances beating complicated rhythms on their drums.

Seven of the nine Attiris also possess a Snake boat and Jolly boat purely for sport. The Snake boat is a beautiful affair, caravel built, i.e. plank laid edge to edge and pegged, with just seat from 26 to 32 oarsmen two abreast. The prow is curved not unlike a cobra about to strike, which gives the boat its name. At the stern is a platform built out, on which two men sit with paddles facing the oarsmen to give them the time. The steersman stands up supported by a gaily painted post and steers with a tiller shaped like a bird with a long neck. The oars are attached to the pins by hamp loops. The boat is painted in graceful lines in yellow, red, black and white, and each boat has oar blades of a different colour, with a crescent moon, an elephant and so on as a crest. The jolly boat is painted to match the snake boat, resembles a ship's life boat, and is used to tow visitors.

The ceremonies arranged in my honour on Minicoy included dancing such as I have described. At intervals between the dances the women of the various Varangis came to pay their respects, sprinkled me with rose water, and brought gifts of betel, sandal oil, attar, eggs, chickens, and oddest of all a syrupy drink poured from a china tea pot into electro plated egg cups on a stand. On the last morning of my stay we had a snake boat race. They started one mile out in the lagoon and raced



COPPER-PLATE BOOK from the 11th CENTURY,
MALDIVE NAME: LOAMAAFAANA / LOMAFANU
PHOTO, L.Vilgon Lib.

up to the beach. The speed was astounding. Several of the boats hit the shore so hard that they tilted right over and filled with water. No damage was done. As one of the prizes I gave a pennant in Trinity Hall colours.

My purpose in visiting the islands was to conduct the biennial inspection as Inspecting Officer. The Inspecting Officer is a "Pooh Bah" in real life. He hears all civil and criminal appeals, all serious criminal cases, and can impose a death penalty - the necessity did not arise this time. He examines the school children, sees the dispensary, holds rat hunts, for rats do much damage to coconuts, appoints Amins and Karnavans, and generally examines any and every question connected with the islands. He is greeted with a reception at each island. At one island the school children greeted me with, "We are jolly good fellows, Scholars are jolly good fellows", in English repeated ad lib. for five minutes. The Inspecting Officer lives in some publicity. Eyes are about his path and about his bed. Even in his bath they are there.

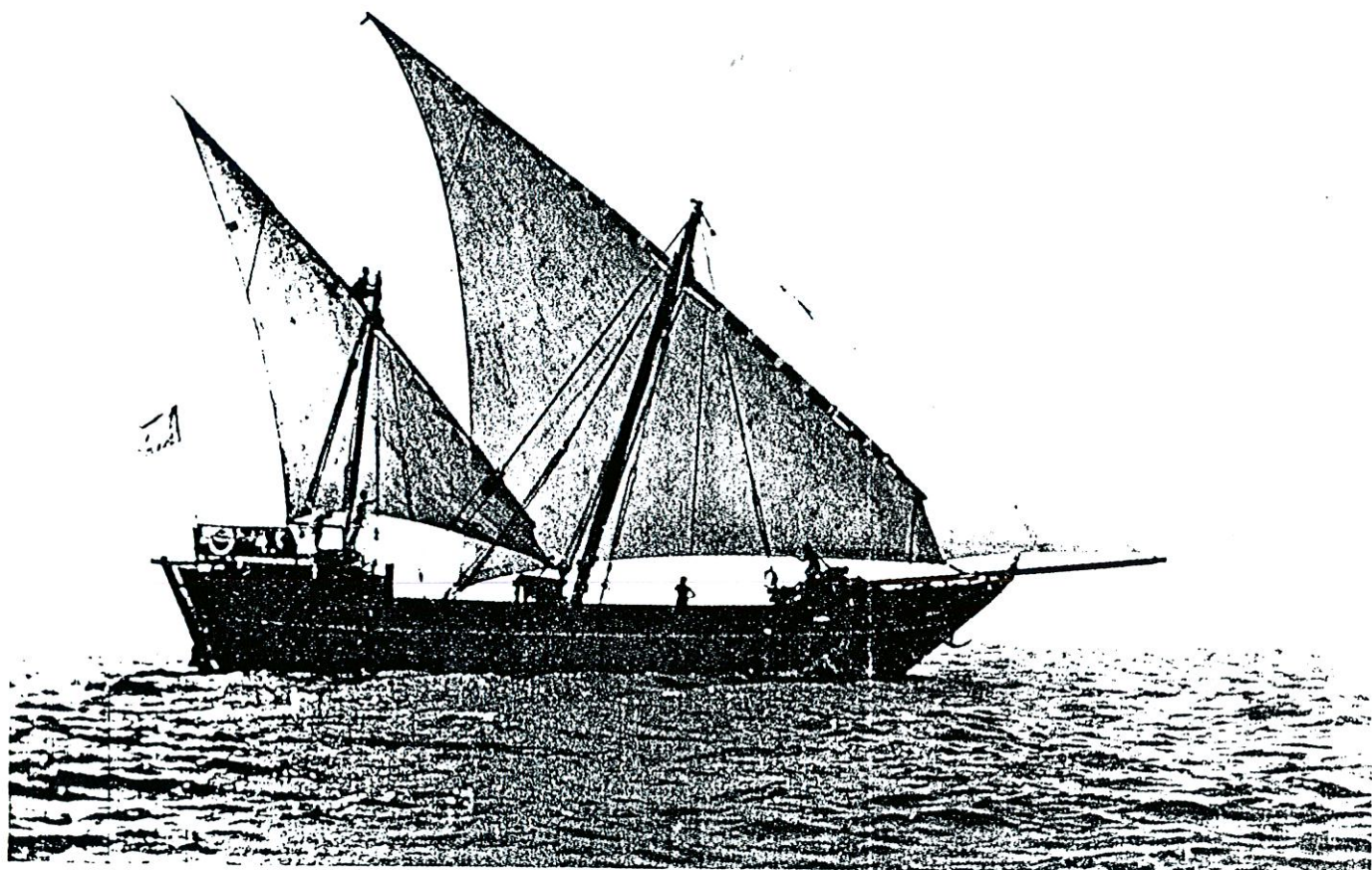
However minor discomforts are more than discounted by the interest of the job. In the Laccadives and Minicoy at least I have had several crowded hours of glorious life. If my fate is now an age without a name, not the least of my consolations will be my memories of name, not the least of my consolations will be my memories of "The hundred thousand isles"

Written by Arthur Platt, The Sub Collector, Malappuram, Malabar, DC.

Lecture with Photos held by Collector Arthur James Platt in 1937, about the Laccadive Islands and Minicoy, which he had visited in 1934 as collector. Type-written manuscript in India Office Library and Records. This is the Minicoy part.

No.2. From the Laccadives we pass on to Minicoy, which lies between the Laccadives and the Maldives, but is really one of the latter group. Its people are of mixed Sinhalese and Arab descent and speak Mahl which is primitive Shinalese with some Arabic words and is written in Arabic characters. The great peculiarity of the island however is that it is almost an island of Amazons. The men go away as Lascars on ships for two or three years at a time and the male inhabitants are chiefly either young boys or old men.

The women have in consequence acquired an influence which is rare in Mohammedan countries. They alone can hold house property and they teach the children to read and write. In spite of the Mohammedan allowance of



MALDIVE FERIGHTER for the INDIAN TRADE,
PHOTO ca 1940, L.Vilgon Lib.

four wives at a time island custom does not recognize polygamy and divorce is rare. There is even a custom of courtship before marriage which must be unique among Mohammedan communities, and marriage is by free consent. The intending bridegroom must give the bride a courting present which consists of a pouch of a special grass plaited in Ceylon or the Maldives and containing arecanut clippers and compartments for betel leaf, lime and areca nut, which both men and women chew continually.

Among the richer people the present includes silver tooth picks and ear probes on a silver chain. The usual age of marriage is 20 for men and 16 for women. The women all are dressed alike in a long overall with short sleeves made of red cloth with thin black stripes. They have a folded blue kerchief on the head, and wear a great number of earrings of gold or silver or black silk thread in the outer rim of each ear, as many as twenty to an ear. Some women also wear silver bangles from the wrist to the elbow, as many as thirty on each arm.

No.3. The women have their own clubs, one for each of the nine sections of the island. The men build these for them free. They are made of teak from Burma, very finely carved and often gilded and roofed with tiles. The design is modelled on the stateroom of a sailing ship. Inside round the walls runs a seat on which the women sit and spin coir and gossip. The children play on the floor which is made of concrete, inlaid with designs of cowrie shells.

No.5. The men's clubs of which there are similarly nine are unpretentious wooden affairs. The chief article of furniture in them is a large swinging divan on which the men sit and swing to keep away the mosquitoes. The mosquitoes of Minicoy carry no malaria but they are so tiny that they can fly through the holes of an ordinary mosquito net. I had to sleep inside two nets. All the islanders sleep under nets of cheese-cloth or long-cloth, and usually in swinging beds. The men normally wear trousers or knickerbockers and a cloth like a skirt, and a turban, and go naked above the waist. Each of their clubs however supports a dancing troupe. The dancer provides his own costume, which costs anything from £ 7 to £ 15.

No.6. The costume is a picturesque affair. First come a pair of striped silk trousers, pale gold in effect, and over them a white cloth with a red border hanging down the back. Two triangular pieces of gaily coloured silk are tied round the waist of purple, green, mauve and so on, and the whole is secured by a belt of black silk or silver from which hang tassels, silver keys, tooth picks, ear probes, betel leaf boxes and so on. Each dancer carries a drum of coconut wood over his shoulder. On his head is a brimless hat of silk, velvet or raffia with a blocked crown, and round this is wound a roll of silk to form a brim about four inches wide. A few betel leaves in the hat and the waist complete the costume. The dancers do slow dances, beating complicated rhythms on their drums and shuffling and stamping their feet. No words are sung, but every rhythm has a meaning.

No.8. Seven of the nine men's clubs also possess a snake boat and a jolly boat kept purely for sport. Races are held whenever a visitor



EXCAVATION of BUDDHIST DAGOBA RUIN,
PHOTO 1922. L.Vilgon Lib.

comes and cause great excitement. All the crews started level and in a course of a mile this one has left the others nowhere. This was the newest boat and had been built with the traditional feasting of the whole island, at a cost of £ 250. A snake boat is a beautiful craft, caravel built, and just seats 26 to 32 oarsmen, two abreast. The prow is curved not unlike a cobra about to strike which probably gives the boat its name.

No.9. At the stern is a platform built out on which sit two men with paddles facing the oarsmen to give them the time. The coxswain stands up and holds onto a gaily painted post with one hand while with the other he steers with a tiller shaped like a long necked bird. The oars are attached to the thole pins with hempen loops. Each boat is painted in graceful lines in yellow, red, black and white, and each boat has oar blades of a different colour with its own crest, an elephant, a crescent moon and so on. The jolly boat is painted to match the snake boat and is used to bring visitors ashore.

No.1. Men and women have separate bathing tanks. This is a men's one.

No.4. The social sense of Minicoy is very strong. Smallpox cases are isolated on a small islet in the lagoon. The lepers who are shown in this picture and of whom there were 27 at the time of my visit, are similarly segregated in a settlement and maintained by the other islanders. They are given medical treatment and some of the cases have been able to return to the village. The Red Cross Society gave various presents for the Lepers which I distributed. Later the Society gave them a pair of goats to start a herd.

No.7. On the last day of my stay on Minicoy the women of the island brought me gifts which are prescribed by custom. The first girl had an electro-plated egg cup stand and the second a china tea pot. A syrupy drink was poured from the tea pot into an egg cup, and I had to drink nine lots of this. I did try sipping one lot, but got such a look that I decided it was wiser to drink the lot, in the other cases and risk the consequences. Fortunately they were not disastrous. The other women brought chickens, betel leaf, attar, sandalwood oil, and sprinkled me with rose water. I also received about 150 eggs but not being too certain of their age I distributed them discreetly afterwards.

And so we bid farewell to the Islands.

[The Numbers refer to the Photos.]



SULTANs MUSICANS,
PHOTO ca 1900. L.V. Li.

1938.

MURPHY, W. L.

IN: Ceylon Sessional Paper XIX, 1938, 6 P.

Visit to the Maldive Islands on the Occasion of the Assumption of the Sword of State by His Highness Sultan Hassan Nuruddin Iskander II, on the 21st July, 1938. Report by W. L. Murphy, Acting Deputy Chief Secretary, November 1938. Ceylon Government Press Colombo 1938.

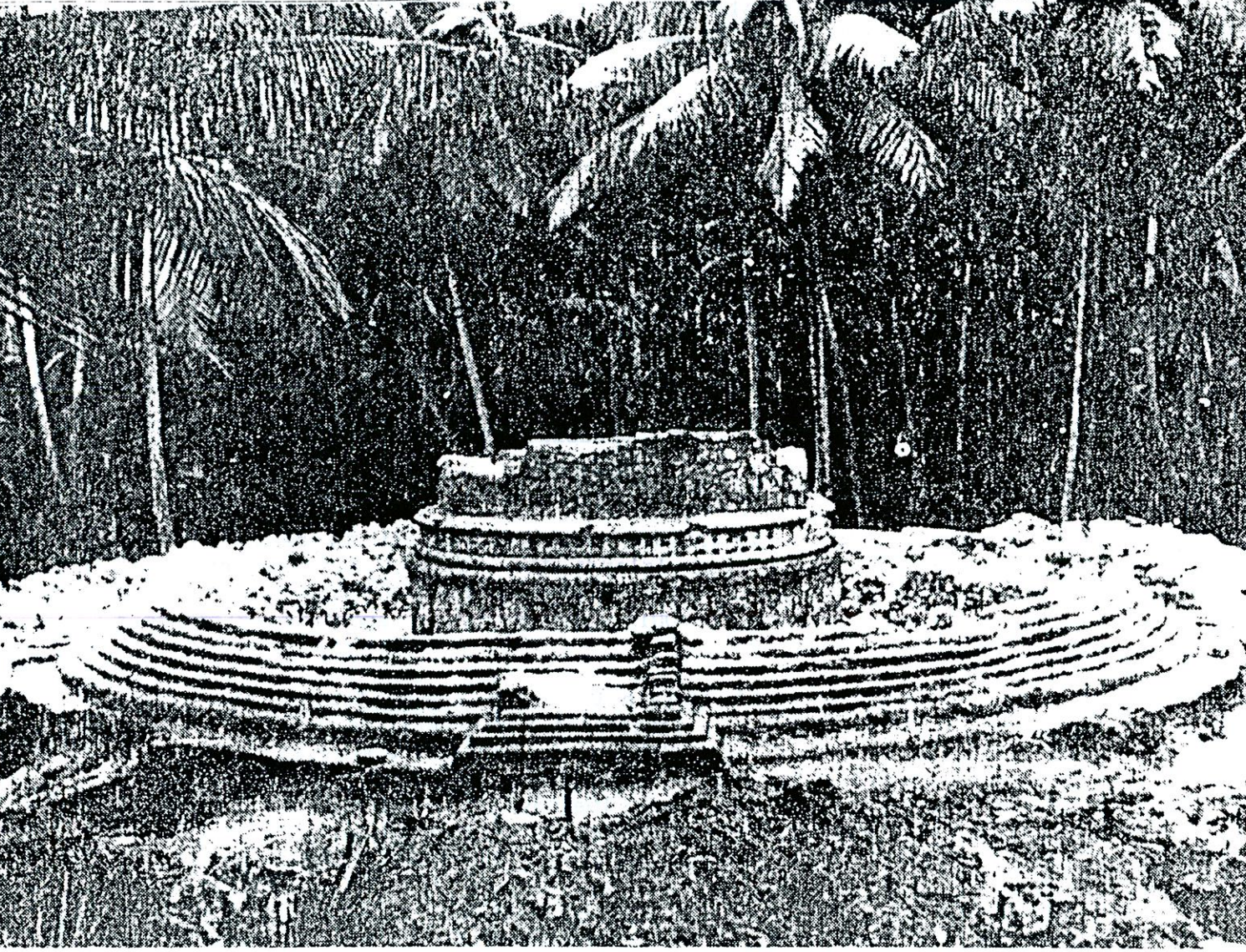
This short Report from some Acting Deputy Chief Secretary, sent out by the Government on the Sloop "STORK" to supervise the "Crowning of a Monarch" in the British Dominion, shows how much or little the official England cared about the Maldive Islands and its people. Nevertheless Mr. W. L. MURPHY gives a good description of the Maldive ceremony, and further passes on some new information about Male town, and the acting ministers in July 1938. [ENGLISH]

The Honourable the Chief Secretary,

I have the honour to submit the following report on behalf of the Mission sent to the Maldive Islands to represent His Excellency the Governor at the recent ceremony of the assumption of State Sword by His Highness Sultan HASSAN NURUDDIN ISKANDAR II, and His Highness's proclamation as Sultan.

The Mission consisting of Captain W. J. R. CRAGG, A.D.C., and myself accompanied by the Maldivian Government Representative, Mr. H. H. DIDI, and Gate Mudaliyar N. N. THAMOTHERAM embarked on the morning of the 18th instant on board H.M.S. "STORK" Captain A. L. JACKSON, R.N., and the ship left harbour shortly after 10 A.M. The voyage proved favorable, Male was sighted on the morning of the 20th and we came to anchor off the port at 9.45 A.M. Maldive time, having completed the journey in 48 hours.

Our arrival was unexpected by the inhabitants as eight buggalows by which Mr. DIDI had consigned separate copies of a letter announcing our coming about three weeks previously had been storm-bound and none of them had as yet reached Male. Large crowds quickly assembled along the water front and we had scarcely anchored when a barge put out from the landing jetty. The Home Minister, Mr. A. M. AMIR HASSAN FAREED DIDI, who is also Minister for Foreign Affairs, arrived on board the "STORK" accompanied by the Minister of Commerce, Mr. A. M. AMIN DIDI, who is also acting as Private Secretary to His Highness the Sultan. After the usual exchange of courtesies programmes were discussed for that and the following day. Both officials spoke English fluently, but most of the discussion was carried on with the Minister for Home and Foreign Affairs, who was educated at the Royal College, Colombo, and has visited England and the Continent.



BUDDHIST DAGOBA RUIN,
PHOTO 1922, L. Vilgon Lib.

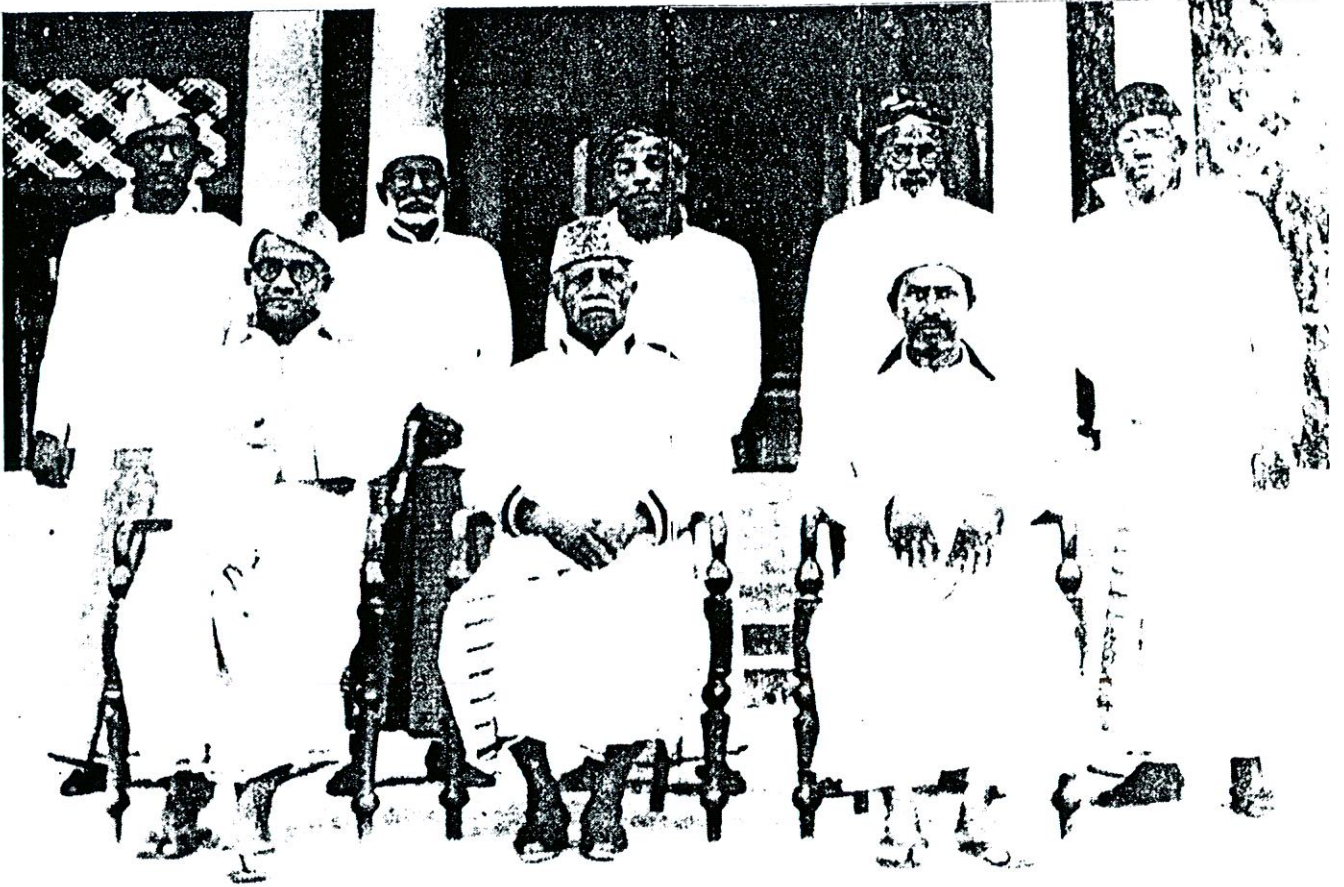
It was arranged that the Mission would call at the Palace at 2 P.M. and that His Highness would return the visit an hour later. Accordingly at 1.45 P.M. the State Barge arrived to convey our party ashore and on landing we were escorted the short distance from the jetty to the Palace by the Sultan's Lascorreen Guard and Band, Captain JACKSON, R.N., and Lieutenant Commander M. W. WELBY, R.N., accompanied us. On our arrival at the Palace we were taken upstairs and through an ante-room or landing into the Audience Chamber where we were received by His Highness and took our seats in a circle of chairs. The Prime Minister, Mr. A. M. AMIN MOHAMED FAREED DIDI, sat on the left of the Sultan and the Ceylon representatives and Captain JACKSON on His Highness's right, the Minister for Home and Foreign Affairs who acted as Interpreter sitting opposite.

The room was imposing being richly panelled with some dark wood with heavy beams across the ceiling and His Highness was dignified and friendly and the whole conversation, as I understand is the custom when the Sultan is present, was carried on in undertones. I handed His Highness the letter from His Excellency and introduced the members of our party. His Highness inquired for the health of His Majesty the King and that of his Excellency the Governor to which I gave satisfactory replies. His Highness replied that he was himself in good health and that satisfactory conditions prevailed in the Maldives. After some further complimentary exchanges and the taking of a photograph by the Court photographer His Highness rose and I once more formally presented Captain CRAGG, Captain JACKSON, Lieutenant Commander WELBY, and GATE MUDALIYAR THAMOTHERAM. His Highness then withdrew and our party returned to the ship.

His Highness returned our call as previously arranged at 3 P.M. and was conveyed to the ship in his State Barge, an officer's guard was mounted on the quarterdeck and he was accorded a Royal salute. He was accompanied by the Prime Minister, the Minister for Home and Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Commerce who as previously mentioned is also the Acting Private Secretary, and the Court Chamberlain. The Maldivian Government Representative in Ceylon, Mr. H.H. DIDI, acted as Interpreter and the proceedings were less formal than at the Palace. I referred to the late Mr. BELL whom His Highness told me he had frequently met during Mr. BELL's residence in the Maldives and I mentioned that Mr. Bell's work on the Islands was about to be published by the Ceylon Government a fact which His Highness was greatly interested to learn.

He also expressed satisfaction when I told him that a scheme was being prepared for provisioning the Maldivian Islands in case of an emergency, as part of the general scheme for provisioning Ceylon. I said I had been informed that on the last occasion when a shortage of rice occurred the Maldivian people had suffered much privation, which His Highness replied had indeed been the case. Captain JACKSON then at His Highness's request showed him round the ship after which His Highness and his party left for the shore.

Captain JACKSON and I landed again about 4.30 P.M. and were personally conducted round the town of Male by Mr. H. H. DIDI. The place is most attractive. There are four divisions or wards and whatever method of



THE SULTAN'S VIZIERS,
PHOTO ca 1910, L.Vilgon Lib.

sanitation is employed seems to be completely efficacious as there were no smells and the whole appearance of the town was scrupulously clean. This was all the more remarkable as there was obviously a large influx of visitors from other islands of the Atoll. The compounds were crowded and the harbour was full of dhows or buggalows as they are locally called while others were anchored outside.

The roads are wide considering that there is no wheeled traffic, an attempt to introduce push bicycles having been successfully resisted some time ago by means of a sumptuary decree forbidding their importation as an unnecessary extravagance. White sand was spread on the streets which are bounded by high walls of coral stone and mortar with which the compounds are closed. Decorations were being erected everywhere and the whole town was beflagged. The number of cementeries, mosques, and shrines built over the graves of departed holy men is noticeable.

The health of the people I was told is good. They have malaria in a mild form but hookworm seems to be unfortunately prevalent. Cases of leprosy occasionally occur and the victims are segregated in an island colony. They have now a qualified Ayurvedic doctor in Male having previously for a short time tried Western medicine and having finally reverted to the more ancient system of treatment for their ailments. There is no serious crime and even misdemeanours were said to be rare. The women outnumber the men but in spite of this and the fact that their religion permits of it the custom of the country is against polygamy. On the other hand my informant indicated that divorce was easy and its practice with a view to remarriage so frequent and general that no woman of marriageable age need necessarily regard herself as permanently surplus.

Captain JACKSON and I returned to the ship about 6 P.M. and the day's proceedings ended with a searchlight display and the firing of every light on board H.M.S. "STORK" which lasted for about half an hour from 9 to 9.30 P.M. and was watched by a large crowd on the shore.

On the morning of the 21st instant H.M.S. "STORK" was dressed over all and the Maldivian ensign was hoisted at the main-mast. The State Barge arrived at 8.15 A.M. and conveyed the Mission accompanied by Captain JACKSON and his officers ashore. Special arrangements had been made to accommodate the ship's officers as well as the members of the Mission at the ceremonies consisting of the investiture with the Sword of State and the proclamation of the Sultan. We were once more escorted from the Jetty with music and a guard of honour and taken to the Durbar pandal where we were shown our seats.

The pandal which was extremely well designed and tastefully decorated stood in the Palace courtyard and contained in its centre a large dais in two tiers on the higher of which a row of chairs had been placed, extending to the right and left of the Masnad or throne, for the accommodation of the highest Court functionaries the members of the Mission and Captain Jackson. Other prominent personages including representatives of the Indian trading community were provided with chairs on the lower tier, while the rest of the audience inside the pandal was seated on benches. A large crowd of spectators also watched



MALDIVAIAN WOMAN in TRADITIONAL DRESS,
"LIBAS" ROBE and "FEYLI" UNDERSKIRT,
HAIR in RIGHT SIDE BUN, BAREFOOTED,
PHOTO ca 1900. L.Vilgon Lib.

the ceremony from behind the roped off enclosure in which the pandal stood following the proceedings closely many of them in devotional attitudes.

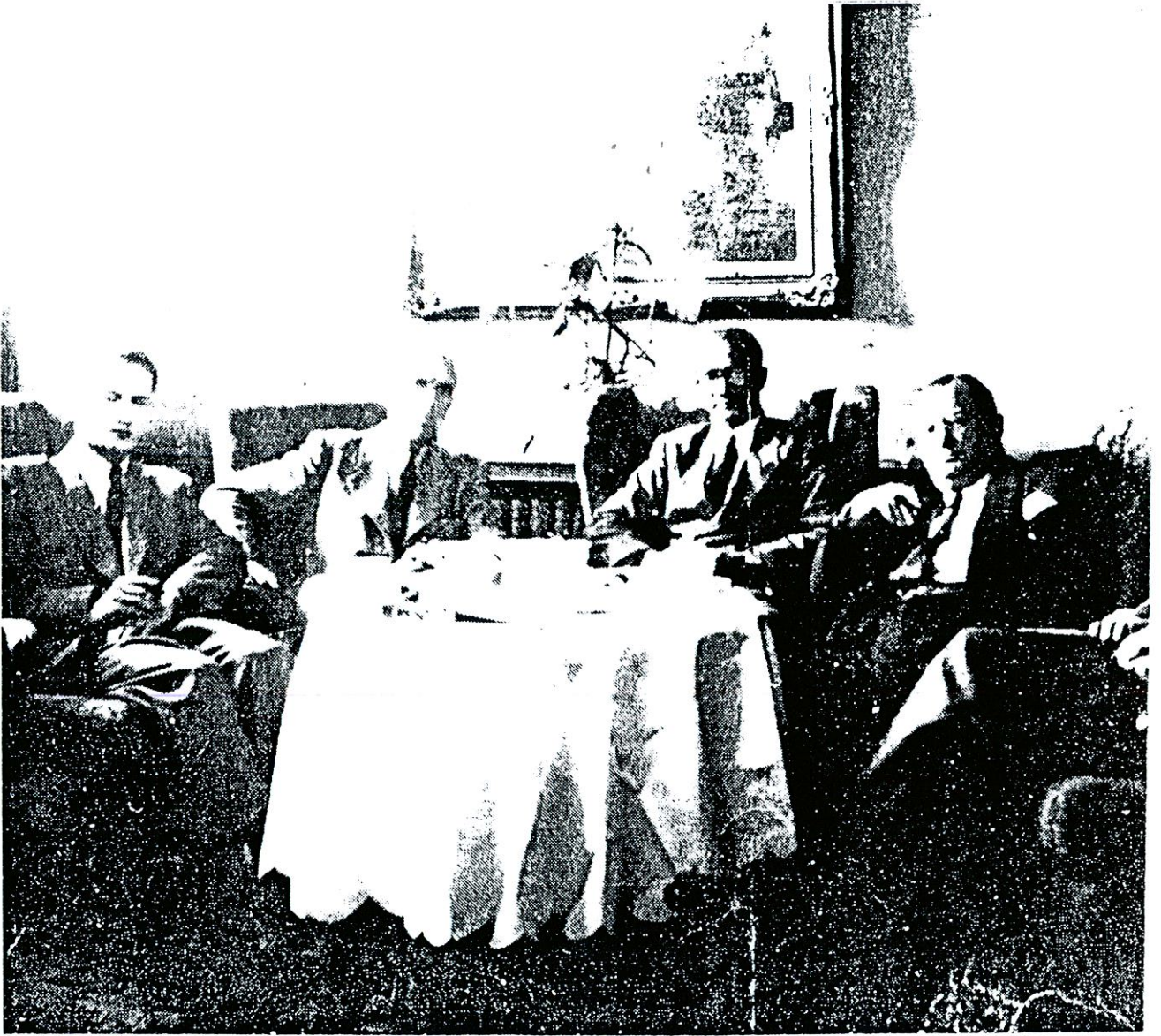
A salute of seven guns and a burst of music announced the Sultan's departure from the Palace and His Highness presently arrived in procession on foot with an armed guard and his Lascoreens. He proceeded after blessing the people to take his seat on the throne, the band played the Maldivian National Anthem and prayers were recited. After an interval during which the audience seemed to be engaged in silent devotions, two persons elected to represent the entire population were brought on to the platform and asked if they on behalf of the people accepted His Highness as their Sultan. The reply was in the affirmative provided His Highness undertook to rule according to the constitution. It was quite clear from the demeanour of representatives that this was not in any sense regarded by them as a mere formality. The necessary solemn undertaking was given by the Home Minister on behalf of the Sultan.

The Chief Justice who was seated on my left then rose and receiving the Sword of State from the Chamberlain proceeded with the investiture. The Minister of Home and Foreign Affairs then read an address with after recapitulating the history of the Maldives ended by referring to the protection afforded them by the British fleet, to the principle of non-intervention in their domestic affairs consistently observed by the paramount power, and to the necessity of maintaining the constitution. The Prime Minister replied on behalf of the Sultan. The Maldivian National Anthem was played for the second time all present standing at the salute as before. This concluded the Durbar and His Highness shortly afterwards left in procession for the Palace pausing to bless the people again on his departure, his dignitaries and ourselves accompanying him.

On his arrival at the Palace, having halted on the way to offer prayer opposite the principle Mosque, His Highness took his seat on a small room along two sides of which we were arranged in chairs to the right and left of the throne. Nothing further transpired for about an hour during which we sat in silence while a servant standing in the centre of the room fanned His Highness with a large fan of peacock feathers. A Herald then arrived distinctively attired and bearing a large brass gong and was immediately accompanied by the Lascoreen Band to proclaim His Highness in the "Four Wards" of Male.

The Herald's progress took some time and in the interval refreshments were served in an adjoining room. On the return of the Herald the proclamation having been completed the Ministers and other dignitaries paid homage to the Sultan and the members of the Mission bowed and shook hands. I was then invited to present the gifts from Ceylon and I asked Mr. H. H. DIDI who acted as Interpreter to be good enough to convey the following address to His Highness:

"As His Highness was already aware His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon as the representative of His Majesty the King had deputed his Aide-de-camp Captain CRAGG and myself to represent His Excellency on the august occasion of His Highness's assumption of the Sword of State and



PRIME MINIST. AMIN DIDI and WINDSTON CHURCHILL,
PHOTO in LONDON 1942. L. Vilgon Lib.

proclamation as Sultan of the Maldive Islands. His Excellency had done so in formal recognition of His Highness's accession to the Masnad. He had also sent us to convey his congratulations to His Highness and to express the hope that His Highness might live long to rule over the Maldive people and prosperity under the protection of the British flag."

I asked that His Highness might be pleased to accept the sword and other gifts which His Excellency had sent on behalf of the Ceylon Government as tokens of the relationship that subsisted from ancient times between the rulers of Ceylon and the Sultans of the Maldive Islands.

After I had formally invested His Highness with the sword and belt he desired me through Mr. DIDI to convey an expression of his extreme gratitude to His Excellency for the gifts and for his message which he greatly appreciated.

In conclusion I asked Mr. Didi to convey my thanks to His Highness on behalf of the members of the Mission and Captain JACKSON, the officers and the ship's company of H.M.S. "STORK" for our short visit to his dominions a most enjoyable one.

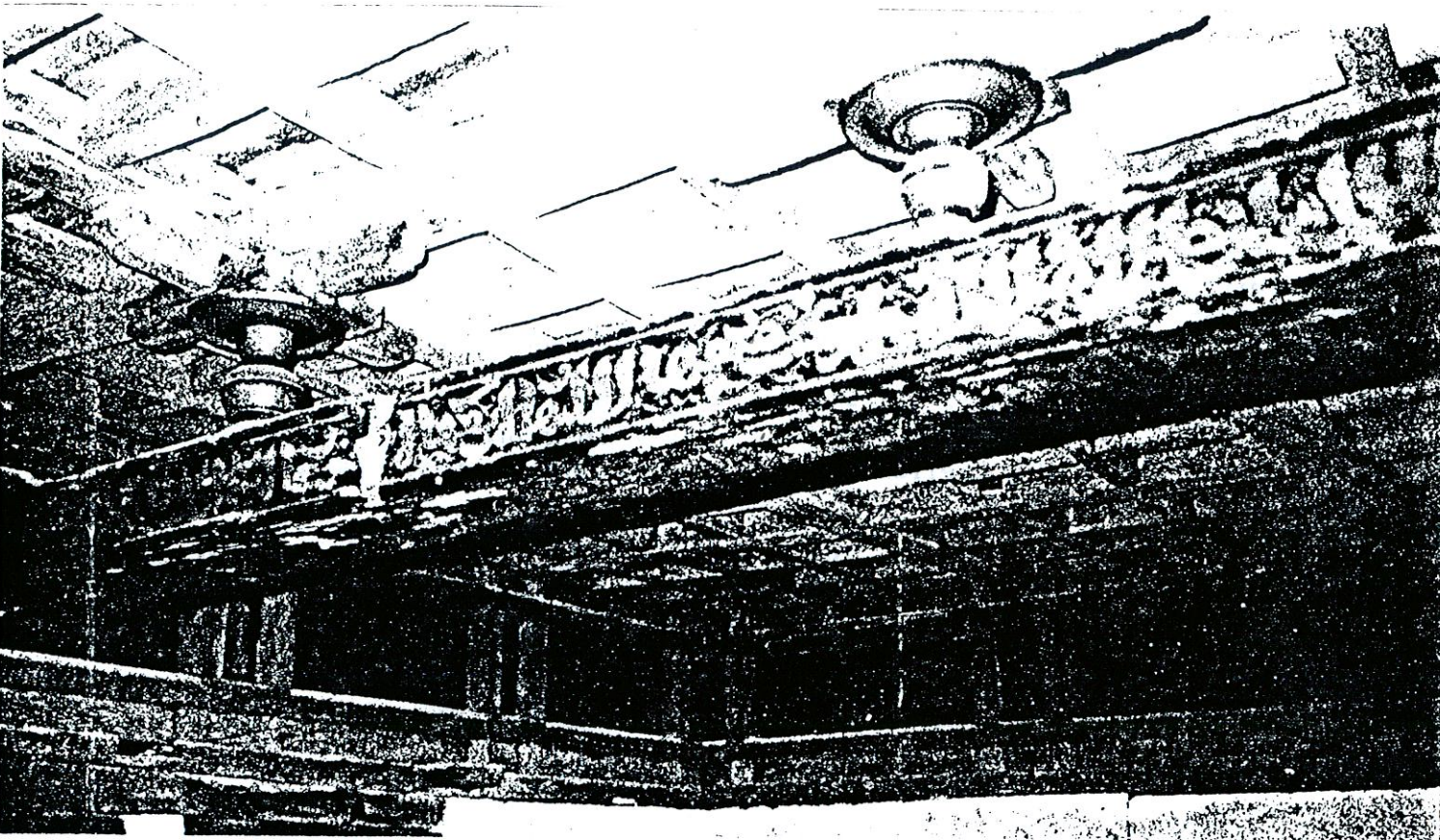
After further exchange of compliments we took our leave of His Highness, the Mission withdrew and the ceremonies being ended returned on board H.M.S. "STORK" which sailed shortly afterwards.

On my departure a letter was handed to me from the Sultan addressed to His Excellency the Governor and presents were sent on board for His Excellency. Presents of Maldive mats and laquer articles had also been sent for the members of the Mission and for the ship's officers together with bunches of plantains, young coconut, eggs, marrows, limes, a slaughtered ox and six live goats. H.M.S. "STORK" weighed anchor at about 2.30 P.M. Maldivian time on July 21st and arrived in Colombo Harbour at about 10.30 A.M. on the 23rd.

I can not end without expressing on behalf of the Mission our appreciation of the courtesy and hospitality shown to us all by Captain A. L. JACKSON, R.N., and his officers at I am afraid, some inconvenience to themselves considering the size of the ship and the rather restricted accomodation ordinarily available on board. I would also wish to bring to your notice and that of His Excellency the services rendered to the Mission by Mr. H. H. DIDI, the Maldivian Government Representative, who was throughout of the greatest assistance to us.

July 28, 1938.

W. L. MURPHY, Acting Deputy Chief Secretary.



KORAN INSCRIPTIONS in THODDOD MOSQUE,
PHOTO THODDOD 1992, L.Vilgon Lib.

1943.

GRIFFITHS, J. C.

IN: J. C. Griffiths Report 3rd May 1943, as Inspecting Officer to the Laccadive Islands (and Minicoy), India Office Library and Records, MSS. EUR. D III/21. London, (1943,)

During the Second World War, 1939-1945, India as a part of the British Empire was fighting their common enemy Japan. Japanese submarines were operating in the waters around the Maldive and Laccadive Islands, where they sank a number of ships. Some of these ship's crews succeeded to come ashore on the different coral Islands, and was helped to survive by the inhabitants. India sent out Inspection Officers every second year, 1939, 1941, and 1943 to Minicoy. This is the Report about Minicoy 1943.

[ENGLISH]

From J.C. Griffiths, Esq. I.C.S. Inspecting Officer,
Malabar Islands,

To T.A. Varghese, Esq.C.I.E.,M.C.,I.C.S.,Collector of Malabar, Calicut.

Sir, ISLAND REPORT 1943.

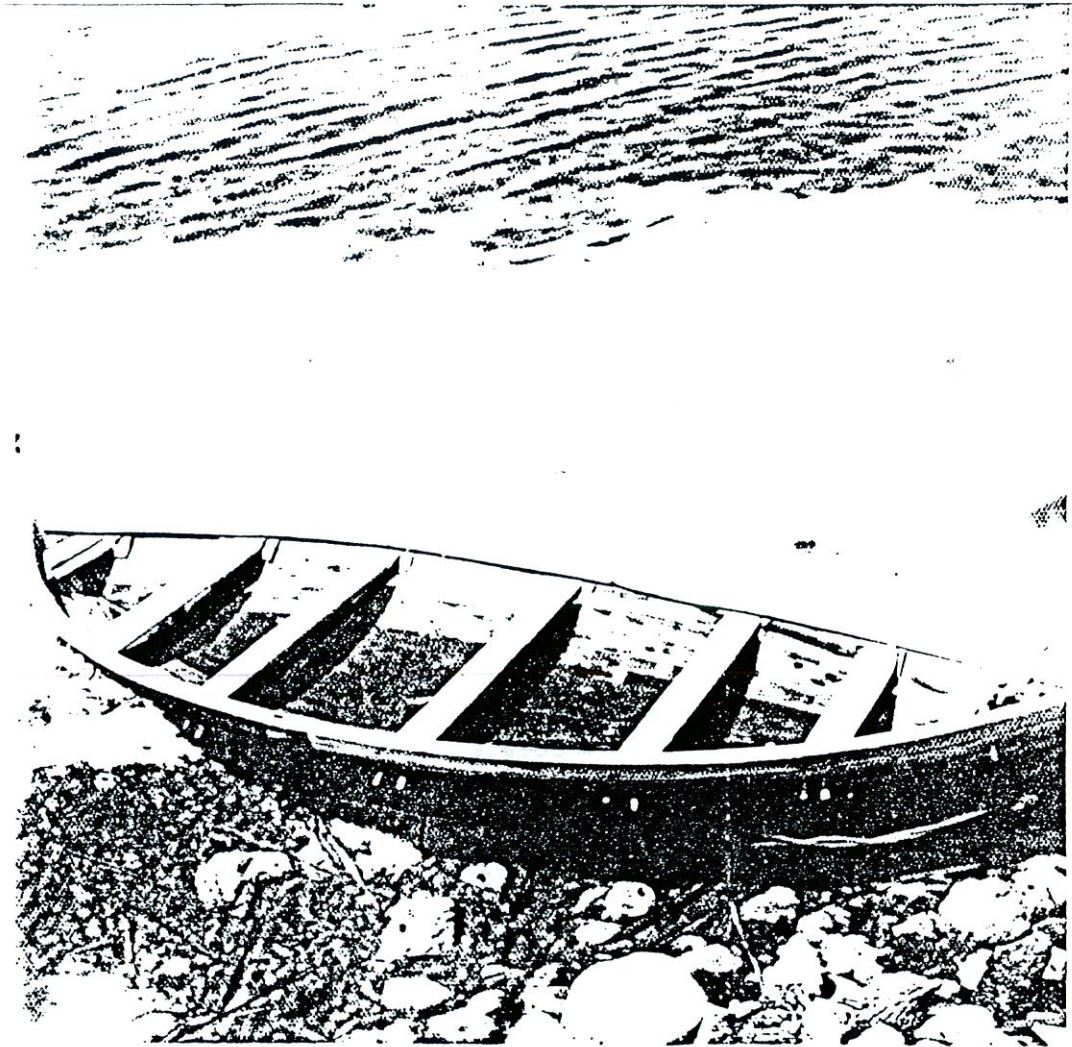
I have the honour to submit my report on the inspection of the Laccadive Islands and Minicoy in January and February 1943. As I stayed longer on the islands than many of my immediate predecessors I have dealt with some general questions at greater length than has been the practice for some years past, and I have returned as far as possible to the style of last century. I propose first to describe my tour, referring particularly to what seemed to me to be the immediate problem on each island, and then to discuss some general questions. I presume some knowledge of previous reports, and contents of Ellis Manual. Finally I furnish a short account of the routine work and the usual appendices.

Now, 2. My tour lasted from the 12th January to 26th February inclusive and embraced the four Laccadive Islands of Agathi, Kavarathi, Androth and Kalpeni, and Minicoy. A separate part visited the South Kanara Islands but both parties sailed together from Mangalore on 12th January in H.M.I.S. "St. ANTHONY". After the South Kanara party had been disembarked at Chetlat on the 13th morning we went ashore at Agathi the same evening.

[Now, 3, to 28, deals with Agathi, Kavarathi, Androth and Kalpeni.]

MINICOY.

Now, 29. We reached Minicoy on the night of 18-19 February after two days and two nights, in the "OMER FARRUQ" and as it was moonlight entered the lagoon immediately. Next day was Friday the 19th and we were



ROWING BOAT of COCOANUT WOOD,
PHOTO NILANDHOO 1992, L.Vilgon,

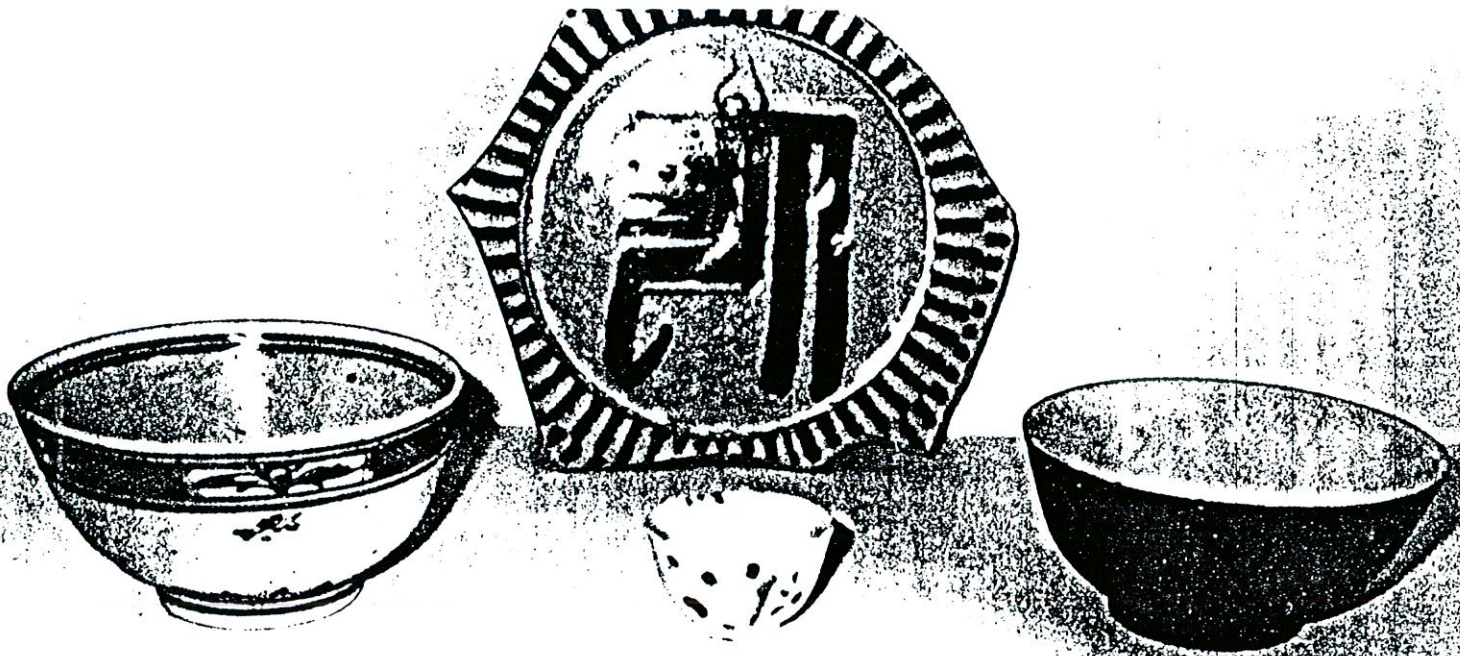
due to be picked up on the 24th so that, though there were many files, there was not much time. There have been disturbances on Minicoy for some time past and on two occasions the Wireless station has sent out alarming messages. On one occasion an Australian Warship came to the Island and the Captain landed and took bonds from the Attiri Moopans. When it is considered that in 1877 Mr. Winterbotham only had two petitions, in 1881 Mr. Brodie could only find three people who spoke Malayalam, in 1925 Mr. Fraser had very few petitions while Mr. Day and Mr. Platt in the 30's both found the work "as usual negligible", it will be realized that Minicoy had changed.

I had a number of cases and many petitions written in Malayalam and English and there were at least three people among those born on the Island who could speak and write English. But the most remarkable fact was that the Government Amin and Gumastha had the support of the Pandaram Amin and all the Attiri Moopans except one. This is unprecedented in the annals of Minicoy and the obvious explanation is the true one, the Attiri Moopans and the Pandaram Amin, as has always been remarked, are the real rulers of the Island and the Government Amin has been in opposition to them, but in the last year or two, a stronger opposition has arisen and the Government Amin and the Attiri Moopans have joined together against the common foe.

The 30 years' lease of the Southern Pandaram was also due for renewal this year and it is only necessary to study the difficulties encountered by Mr. Innes in 1912 to understand how vital a settlement of this is to the peace of Minicoy. Minicoy is governed by a most remarkable system of primitive co-operation, and I need only refer to the Manual on the subject. But the Government, in the interests of supporting this unique and effective system have always declined or been unable to take the revenue they might otherwise get from Minicoy, with the result that the islanders are much enriched in spite of the fact that, except for the products of the sea, they do not utilize the resources of the island as they might.

However they run the South Pandaram on a co-operative, or rather I should prefer to call it, a tribal basis, and the profits are divided among the people according to their custom. This custom they adopt even with the fish and no old person on Minicoy goes without his share of 'mas' when the boats come in, nor is anyone reduced to begging rice dole of the Inspecting Officer. But this tribal system, in some ways crude and burdensome, in other admirable, has had to meet in the last few years increasing pressure from the forces of the outside world with some consequent strain.

The Government have been sending their officers in increasing numbers to settle on the Island, doctor, midwife, then wireless station, many more mainland merchants have come to the Island, but particularly since the war some of the sons of Minicoy have been disturbed from Burma, Nicobar and the Maldives [To KELAI Island / Thilandhumathi Atoll, & GAMU Island / Addu Atoll air-bases,] and returned to their Island bringing with them all the ideas and experience gained in a hard school. These newcomers have resented their dependence on the unlettered, rude and fierce old system and have drawn together in opposition into a new party, I cannot



MING CHINA PORCELAIN from the
15th, 17th, 16th CENTURYS
BAARAH and THODDOD ISLANDS.
PHOTO 1992. L.Vilgon Lib.

suspect that the Minicoy exiles now returned have had a feeling that the Government is wasting much money in Minicoy and that if the South Pandaram were broken up and given on lease they would gain by it and Government would not lose.

These former exiles are joined by other new elements with whom they are connected by bonds of common language and experience. It is this opposition which has brought the Attiri Moopans and the Government Amin together, but it has brought disorder in its train also and obvious tactics of the new party are to introduce schism into the ranks of the Attiris. And so, in spite of the fact that Mr. Crombie got a promise in 1941 from the Attiris that they would all take the Great South Pandram on lease for another 30 years in common, I found the Bada Attiri, a large Attiri always known for its radical views, unwilling to join and claiming that the Pandaram should be divided.

Now, 30. The present series of troubles started with the dispute over the "ABDUL QADIR HAMID BUX", a large sailing vessel. This was owned by the M.T.M. Company, an association of share-holders of Minicoy. The vessel was managed by one H. M. Manikfan but in 1936 there were some difficulties and disputes within the Company and they were referred to a Board of arbitration, merchants of Moulmein. They said that the accounts were so confused that it was not possible to go into them but recommended that for the future the management of the vessel should be vested in Mohammad Ismail, one of the party opposed to H.M. Manikfan.

Apparently the vessel was handed over but H. M. Manikfan contested the arbitration and on return to Minicoy the Bada Attiri people, the members of the dissident Attiri, filed a suit against the Company for some Rupies 10,000 due to them for sundry articles and work done to the ship in the past. This suit was filed in the Amin's Court at Minicoy (not the present Amin) and the Amin decided the suit in favour of Bada Attiri but in the judgement the only point on which a finding was given was the single one, that H.M. Manikfan was the manager. This was in 1938 and Mohammad Ismail filed an appeal to the Collector of Malabar against the Amin's order. This appeal was reserved for the Island Inspecting Officer but the inspection of 1939 was given up and the Inspecting Officer of 1941 was unable to spend more than a few hours on the Island, and that too unannounced.

Hence the appeal remained undisposed of, but it was finally taken up by the Additional District Magistrate in Calicut who confirmed Mohammad Ismail in the management of the vessel but referred the actual claim of the Bada Attiri people to the next Inspecting Officer for enquiry on the Island. The Additional District Magistrate however showed that he had little doubt but that the claim of the Bada Attiri was collusive with the intention of getting the management of the vessel for H. M. Manikfan and I found the same on enquiry on the Island. But before this a fresh issue had arisen.

Now, 31. After the Inspecting officer of 1941 left the island, one Moulvi Hussain Didi returned to the Island. He had been a supporter of the former Amin and was an outsider from the Maldives. He had been permitted to come back after once having to leave the Island and it was



PALACE ATTENDANT, SULTANS GUARD.
PHOTO ca 1900. L.Vilgon Lib.

proposed that he should be the first school-master of Minicoy. On arrival he began to preach against certain traditional practices of some of the Attiris, in particular drumming. As the Bada Attiris were one of the Attiris which drummed I cannot but feel that this teaching was particularly directed to them. Anyway the Bada Attiri people who comprise one-fourth of the population of the Island took an oath that they would abhor such irreligious practices as drumming and certain other ceremonies practised from time immemorial on the Island. Thus was another wedge driven by the new schismatic party into the old customs of the Island.

The present Amin had in the meanwhile taken over the post and was inclined to align himself like his predecessor with the new party. The Wireless station had also been established by this time and among the persons employed was a Minicoy man named Ali Malikhan, educated in English and Malayalam and the son of the former Gumastha Koyatti. Ali Malikhan's brother was also employed in the Wireless station and the two Anglo-Indian operators naturally joined the members of the New Party and were a powerful reinforcement to them. The Anglo-Indians were doomed to a year's exile on Minicoy and had come from stations like Delhi or Calcutta. [Wireless operators from India, Light-house keepers from Ceylon. All Anglo-Indians or Burgers.]

They would naturally fall in line with the new party, with whom they could speak and play games, they were instinctively repelled by the Islanders, with whom they would not speak and who were, when away from the island lascars, and when on the island, the rulers and arbiters of the details of the daily life. In this way the Wireless staff were less fortunate than the Lighthouse staff, since the latter are Singalese and speak directly to the Minicoy people and moreover are visited every three months by their steamer from Ceylon.

The light-house staff unlike that of the wireless station, expect a lonely life and are better able to endure the year's exile in Minicoy. These facts, added to the three miles distance which separates the light-house from the village, help to explain why the light-house staff have been more successful than the wireless station in keeping out of local politics.

Nov. 32. In July 1941 Ali Malikhan, now employed at the Wireless station, was charged before the people with adultery. The traditional method of dealing with those taken in adultery - I have the word of the doctor that it is harsh to the point of cruelty and still commonly practiced - is to place the woman on a stone in the heat of the day and question her until she reveals the man's name. Then the guilty pair are made to sit together exposed to the obloquy of all passers-by, the man is finally whipped in public, though the whipping is symbolic in that actual pain is not caused.

The people were strong enough to impose this penalty on Ali Malikhan though he was the son of the former Gumastha, and an employee at the Government observatory. There is no doubt but that the Attiris are still paramount in Minicoy and, apart from the capacity of the New Party to get the ear of Government by writing petitions and sending wireless



PALACE ATTENDANT, SULTANS GUARD,
PHOTO ca 1900, L.Vilgon Lib.

messages, they can only hope to prevail by introducing schism in the Attiris. In which, with regard to the Bada Attiri, they were succeeding.

Mom. 33. I cannot say whether Moulvi Hussain Didi's advocacy of reform was sincere - I could find no religious objection to drumming though on æsthetic grounds it would be shameful if it fell into disuse - but it was effective and the Bada Attiri and some of the leaders of the New Party were accepting his doctrines. Among these was the present Amin and one night, when the Moulvi Hassan Didi was in the Amin's house expounding the Koran, stones began to fall on the roof and the people gathered to express their displeasure.

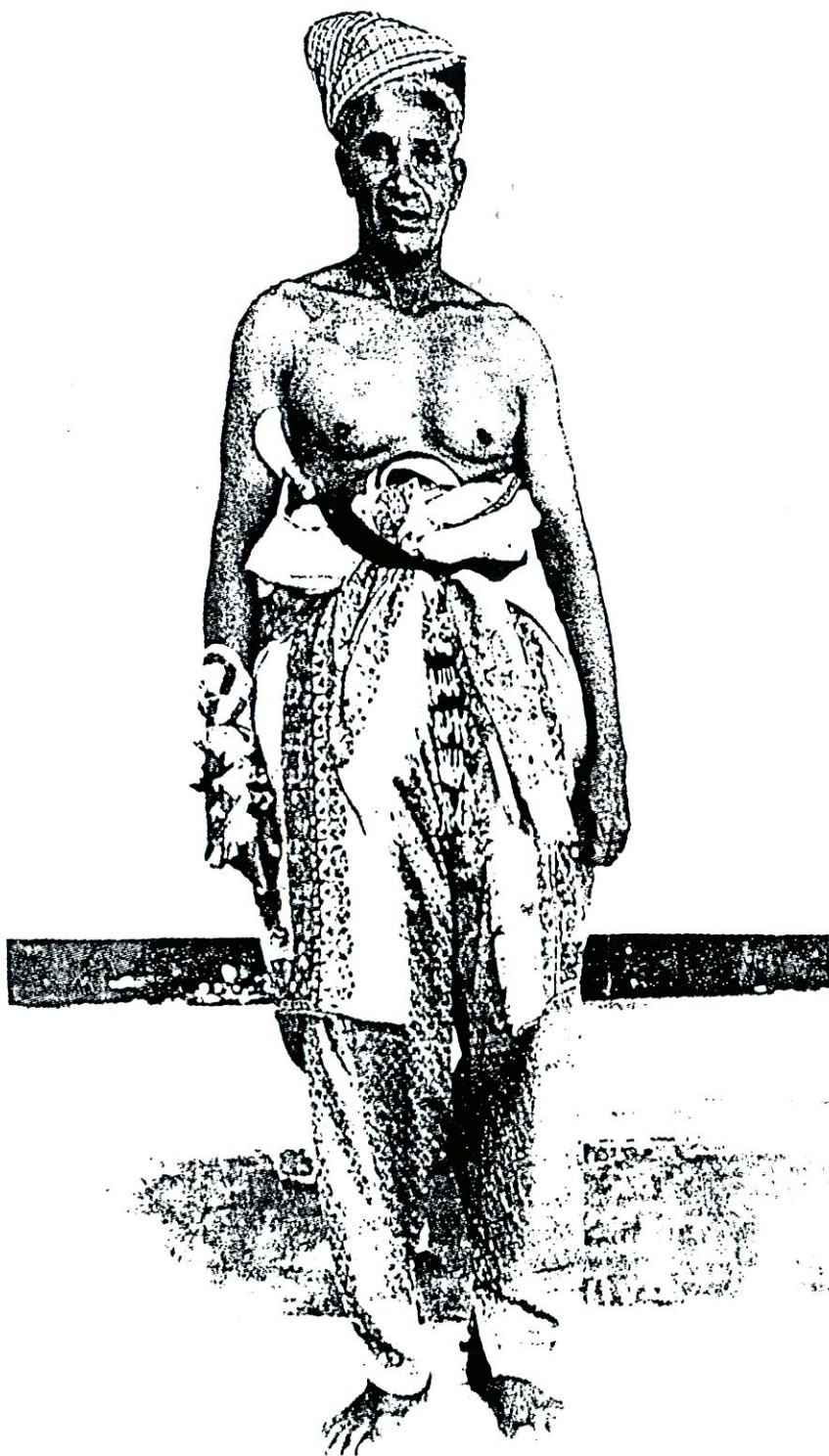
The Amin got a wireless message sent to the mainland reporting riot and danger to his house and the Amin must really bear the responsibility for being the first to make use of the wireless station to send such a message to the mainland. Moulvi Hussain Didi continued to be unpopular and disturbances went on until finally Hussain Didi took refuge in the Wireless station. The Amin had by this time become alarmed at the manifestation of popular feeling and changed his side. Hence forward he and the Gumastha are fond on the side of the eight Attiri Moopans (all except the Bada Attiri) and the Pandaram Amin.

The Wireless station afforded a refuge to Moulvi Hussain Didi until he was able to get off the island to the mainland, but the wireless staff did not become any more popular on the island for the support rendered to Hussain Didi. I do not think Hussain Didi is likely to want to return to Minitoy but should he ever wish to do so I should like to record my opinion that he should be stopped.

Mom. 34. Three months after the departure of Hussain Didi a fresh stone throwing occurred. This was on the house of Ali Malikhan at a time when the observer William of the Wireless station was having food in the house. The charge of the islanders is that Ali Malikhan was helping to provide women for the wireless staff but this they indignantly repudiate. The officer in charge of the Wireless station was sent for but the whole party were kept imprisoned in the house by the angry crowd until the Amin and Attiri Moopans came in the early hours of next morning and rescued them.

At a "Hawa", meeting of the whole people, a resolution was passed that none of the wireless staff should be allowed to visit the village at night and a virtual siege of the Wireless station took place, since the wireless staff were afraid to leave the premises. They countered by silencing the wireless station and no messages were sent out for some days. This naturally alarmed the authorities on the mainland who sent out the H.M.A.S. cruiser "HOBART" to investigate. The officers from the ship landed and bonds were taken from the Moopans that no further troubles would be caused. After this the wireless staff were able to move about again, their official explanation however of the silence was that they were too ill to send messages.

Mom. 35. Shortly after this the two wireless officers mentioned reached the end of their period at Minitoy and quarrels again took on a more domestic shape. The war against Japan brought reinforcements to the New



PALACE ATTENDANT, SULTANS GUARD,
TRADITIONAK DRESS, BAREFOOTED,
PHOTO ca 1900, L.Vilgon Lib.

Party and one or two exiles returned from Burma and elsewhere. There were complaints of thefts and arson, as usually occurs on the Islands when they become disturbed and the Gumasthan's shop was burnt and some furniture stolen from the cutcherry. There was also some scandal about the accounts of the Pandaram Aminand, a new one was appointed. Next day the sailing ship "ABDUL QADIR HAMID BUX", the case about which was still pending disposal by the next Inspecting Officer, was found sunk in the lagoon with six holes drilled in her.

At a "Hawa" held a few days later the people of Minicoy met and pronounced the epitaph on her, "It must have been one side or other of the M.T.M. Company who sunk her" The Amin sent a charge to Calicut and a complaint was filed there about the sinking, the Amin also reported that it was necessary for the peace of the Island to take security proceedings against five persons. Proceedings under the Regulation were accordingly initiated and both these cases were part heard when they were transferred to my file.

Nov. 36. After I had recovered from my surprise at the unprecedented number of petitions received in Minicoy I spent the first two days in recording evidence in the two cases. I then spent a short while in looking about me. I decided the initial question was the renewal of the South Pandaram lease, and I put it to the Moopans that the old mamuls should be maintained. They were not yet of accord and I thought things were critical, the Bada Attiri people wished to have their portion separately divided while the other Attiris wished to take the whole Pandaram themselves and to exclude the Bada Attiri. It was my belief that the tribalunity and the cooperation of the islanders, though at times bearing harshly on individuals would have to be maintained if there was to be any peace on the Island and that the former quiet of Minicoy could not continue unless the influence of the Attiri Moopans was upheld and restored.

The management of the Southern Pandaram has always been the fundamental problem in Minicoy and it is recorded (see Ellis's manual page 28-29) that the Southern Pandaram was responsible for the troubles of 1887 and 1912 when the Inspecting Officer had to leave the Island. I therefore hinted as broadly as I could that the Government would have no sympathy with any of people outside the Attiris if the settlement of the Pandaram failed and I said I would bring the lease next day and hoped to get it signed. I gave no sign that Government would be likely to divide up the Pandaram as I think would be a wrong policy and only lead to further troubles and disorders on the island, but I fear the cupidity of some people has been roused by the prospect and the question may yet cause trouble.

In holding that division of the Pandaram is against the interests of the people as a whole I have the support of most of my predecessors as well as island opinion in previous years when division has been mooted. Next day, I was told that the people wished to hold a "Hawa" to consider the matter and they did me the honour of inviting me to watch the proceedings as a guest. The "Hawa" meeting was very impressive though I was in some anxiety as to how things would turn out. Eventually I understood that agreement had been reached and the Bada Attiri came in

MALDIVE ODD HISTORY.

Contents of Volume One.

A Collection of 44 Entries into English
from 11 Languages, 258 pages with 130 fig.

YEAR.	AUTHOR.	LANGUAGE.	ENGLISK TRANS.	PUBLISHED.	PAGE
630	HSUAN TSANG	Chinese	Watter, Thomas	London 1905	1
792	DU YOU	Chinese	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1991	3
850	SULAIMAN	Persian	Gray, Albert	London 1890	5
916	MASUDI	Arabic	Sprenger, Aloys	London 1841	7
946	AL MUQADDASI	Arabic	Rancing, G S A	Calcutta 1897	9
1026	ABUL HASSAN	Persian	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1991	11
1150	IDRISI, SHARIF	Arabic	Elliot, H M	London 1867	13
1178	CHOU CHU FEI	Chinese	Hirth, Fredrich	Petersburg 1911	19
1290	MARCO POLO	Italian	Logan, William	Madras 1887	21
1292	JOHN OF MONTECORVO	Italian	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1991	23
1344	IBN BATUTA	Arabic	Gray, Albert	Colombo 1883	25
1349	WANG TA-YUAN	Chinese	Rockhill, William	Leide 1915	55
1425	MA HUAN	Chinese	Phillips, George	Shanghai 1885	57
1442	ABD-UR-RAZZAK ARABIA	Persian	Major, R H	London 1857	61
1497	HIERONIMO DI STEFANI	Italian	Major, R H	London 1857	63
1503	SORDRE, VICENTE	Portugu.	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1991	67
1505	ILHA DYWE	Portugu.	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1991	71
1529	PARMENTIER, JEAN	French	Gray, Albert	London 1890	79
1555	CAMDES, LUIS DE	Portugu.	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1991	83
1599	HOUTMAN, CORNELIS DE	Dutch	Markham, Albert	London 1880	85
1599	HOUTMAN, FREDRIK DE	Dutch	Vos, F De	London 1887	87
1605	PYRARD, FRANCOIS	French	Gray, Albert	London 1887	89
1632	RESENDE, PEDRO DE	Portugu.	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1991	93
1632	MIDDLETON, ROGER	English	Middleton, Roger	Bombay 1902	95
1683	HEDGES, WILLIAM	English	Hedges, William	Colombo 1898	99
1685	KOSSAYS, S	French	Herbert, William	London 1775	109
1697	KIDD, WILLIAM	English	Defoe, Daniel	London 1724	111
1710	HAMILTON, ALEXANDER	English	Pinkerton, John	London 1812	115
1726	ISKANDAR II, IBRAHIM	Divehi	Bell, Harry C P	Colombo 1934	119
1753	TERMELLIER, LE	Divehi	Bell, Harry C P	Colombo 1940	123
1762	FORRESTER, THOMAS	English	Forrester, Thomas	London 1792	127
1777	BLANCHARD, C	French	Magnus, F	London 1789	129
1788	PAGES, FRANCOIS	French	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1991	131
1835	HUMBOLT, ALEXANDER	French	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1991	133
1835	CHRISTOPHER, W & YOUNG, I	English	Christopher/Young	Bombay 1838	135
1843	TRESORIERE, BARBOT DE	French	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1991	181
1844	QUINHONES, MANUEL DE	Portugu.	Bell, Harry C P	Colombo 1931	195
1879	BELL, HARRY CHARLES P	German	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1991	199
1899	CHUN, CHARL	German	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1991	207
1905	KEANE, JOHN	English	Keane, John	London 1907	211
1917	MEADE, ABBOTT	English	Meade, Abbot	London 1918	223
1917	NERGER, K & SZIELASHO, R	German	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1991	237
1917	CLARKE, ALFRED	English	Clarke, Alfred	Colombo 1920	245
1921	MALDIVIANS IN AFRICA	English	Bell, H C P	Colombo 1940	257

with the others. The agreement was then signed and the Bada Varangi brought me the customary gifts which they had neglected, the boat race also which had been held in abeyance, took place. The most vital matter being now settled I gave my decisions in the remaining cases in accordance.

I dismissed the Bada Attiri's claim against the M.T.M. Company and I hope that the matter of the "ABDUL QADIR HAMID BUX" will at last be forgotten, the only asset of the Company has gone and everyone has been the loser, though I feel matters might have been saved, had there been an inspection 1939 or a full one in 1941. The charge against those suspected of sinking the ship was also dismissed but I thought it better to take security from four out of the five persons charged by the Amin. I released Ali Malikhan in spite of the charge against him since he has been heavily punished for his adultery, and security was taken from his father Koyatti, the ex. Gumastha. Ali Malikhan was also given a good word by the present head of the wireless station Mr. Borgonha. The wireless staff is at the moment enjoying better relation with the Islanders.

Mon. 37. I can only hope that Minicoy will again become the "orderly prosperous pleasant island" described by Mr. Fraser in 1925. However, as many Inspecting Officers have remarked, the influence of the officer does not long survive his departure and it is likely that further schisms will occur in Minicoy. Opinions of Inspecting Officers about the island differ considerably, but for an Island Minicoy has a strong character of its own and to have born it is a stimulating experience. Twenty-five of the men of Minicoy have already given up their lives at sea in the present war and I know of other suspected cases. If this casualty list is worked out in proportion to the total population of the Madras Presidency it would come to the astounding figure of over 300,000 dead in the Presidency. I doubt if any other area in Madras could compare with this record and Minicoy has deserved well of the British Empire.

[In Mon. 38-73. Mr. Griffiths gives information about the Islands of Agathi, Kavarathi, Androth and Kalpeni.]

MINICOY.

Mon. 80. The buildings on Minicoy need repairs. The Attiri is, partly as sign of reconciliation, offered to put up by common effort a small break-water in front of the cutcherry to prevent erosion. However they require cement and I said I would let them have it from the main-land, but since it is not possible to obtain it Rupies 30 may be sanctioned in its stead for the manufacture of country mortar and the Islanders informed of this arrangement.

Mon. 81. Rupies 100 may be sanctioned for repairs to cutcherry and out buildings. The estimate has been submitted by the Amin.

MALDIVE ODD HISTORY.

Contents of Volume Two.

A Collection of 31 Entries into English
from 10 Languages. 258 pages with 130 fig.

YEAR CONC- ERNED	AUTHOR, or ITEM	LANGUAGE ORIGINAL	ENGLISH ADAPTION	WRITTEN or PUBLISHED	PAGE
BC 200	SUGATHAPALA DE SILVA	English	De Silva, Maniku	Oxford 1971	1
658	SRI BALADITYA	Chinese	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1992	5
800	SIMBAD THE SAILOR	Arabic	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1992	7
953	BUZURG IBN SHAHRIYAR	Persian	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1992	9
1030	AL BIRUNI MUHAMMAD	Arabic	Sachau, Edward	London 1888	11
1135	AL JAWALIQUI, MAWHUB	Arabic	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1992	13
1307	PRINCE HAYTHON	Latin	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1992	15
1320	AL DIMASHQI, SHAMS	Arabic	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1992	17
1436	FEI HSIN	Chinese	Rockhill, William	Leiden 1915	19
1503	VASCO GA GAMA	Portugue	Richardson, Will.	London 1799	21
1512	ALBOQUERQUE, ALFONSO	Portugue	Gray-Birch, Walter	London 1880	23
1520	HUANG SHENG TSENG	Chinese	Rockhill, William	Leiden 1915	25
1742	GOLLENSSE, STEIN VAN	Dutch	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1992	27
1776	SONNERAT, PIERRE	French	Magnus, F.	Calcutta 1789	29
1780	LAHARPE, JEAN FRANCOIS	French	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1992	31
1805	WAHL, SAMUEL F G	German	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1992	49
1819	SCHULTZ, M. Officer	French	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1992	55
1819	MUHAMMAD MUINUDDIN, I.	Divehi	Didi, Abdul Hamid	Colombo 1924	67
1819	SARTORIUS, M. Captain	French	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1992	69
1840	BONNAND, Monseigneur	French	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1992	77
1859	TENNENT, JAMES EMERSON	English	Tennet, J. E.	London 1859	89
1885	ROSSET, CARL WILHELM	German	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1992	91
1889	LOGAN, WILLIAM	English	Logan, William	Edinburgh 1889	99
1900	DUTTON, FRANK	English	Dutton, Frank	Johanesburg 1900	153
1905	HULBERT, A. R.	English	Hulbert, A. R.	Colombo 1905	163
1909	MARSHALL, H. J. T.	English	Marshall, H. J. T.	Colombo 1909	165
1910	DIDI, MOHAMED ISMAIL	Divehi	Ali Risa Didi	Male 1992	167
1911	DENHAM, EDWARD BRANDIS	English	Denham, Edw. Bran.	Colombo 1911	189
1912	DUCKWORTH, WYNFRID L H	English	Duckworth, Wynfrid	Cambridge 1914	213
1920	LAWSON ROBINS, Mrs.	English	Lawson Robins, Mrs	Colombo 1920	235
1929	RIEL, P. M. VAN	Dutch	Riel, P. M. Van	Leiden 1929	255

Mom, 82. I paid the usual visit to the Leper Colony and gave them clothes and kerosene. They represented it was difficult to get cloth now and I promised to send some from the main-land, If possible funds may be sanctioned for the purpose.

Mom, 83. I inspected the Dispensary where the Doctor seemed popular. The buildings were in good condition, some repairs have been sanctioned to the quarters but they could not be carried out as the money is not forthcoming from Island collections. The matter is under correspondence with the District Medical Officer.

Mom, 84. There is no school on Minicoy, the last schoolmaster left hurriedly as I have said. I had a new application and I was shown a building which was promised to be given free. A second attempt maybe made to start a school since the Government have been very emphatic on the point. I however am doubtful of its success and would prefer to see the proposal dropped for a while.

Mom, 85. There are no destitutes on Minicoy as the Island has elaborated a system which provides for them.

Mom, 86. I paid out money in pensions to the families of seamen killed by enemy action. They were the first pensions to be paid though the intimation of the loss of the men was received about two years ago. The system of pension payment with its elaborate check and counter-check is so unsuitable to the conditions of Minicoy that it is only just possible to get pension payment through at all. I tried to soften the rigours of the system by paying on my own responsibility one case in which there were clerical errors in the pension form and thereby broke the rules. I trust I may not be called on to explain but I could not feel it my duty to bring the money back again and leave the woman and children for another six months. The mistake was obvious and there is no fear of wrong payment.

I give two more examples of difficulty experienced. Photographs of pensioners have to be supplied, there is no photographer on the Island and the women and children do not leave. It is also irregular to draw money in advance and send it to the Island for disbursement, but since Island collections amount only to Rupies 3,000 a year of which Rupies 1,200 is spent on establishment no money can be paid from this source, this I understand would be the correct procedure. I am aware that action has been taken to get over the difficulties but I wish to record the facts as it may take many years for the pension payments to begin.

Mom, 87. I had requests from the Islanders for kerosene, sugar and rice. I understand that special arrangements have been made to supply these articles. But if possible it would be an advantage if the Odam-owners could be allowed to apply for a special permit for one tin of kerosene in the name of the Odam on arrival in Calicut. The kerosene is needed for purposes connected with the voyage like the keeping of a burning light.

Mom, 88. The Surveyor has to prepare copies of the Field Measurement Book and Land Register. This must take time and I recommend he be given

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Contents of Volume Three.

A Collection of 19 Entries into English
from 10 Languages. 258 pages with 130 fig.

YEAR CONC- ERNED	AUTHOR OR ITEM	LANGUAGE ORIGINAL	ENGLISH ADAPTATION	PUBLISHED WRITTEN	PAGE
362	AMMIANUS MARCELLINUS	Latin	Rolfe, John	London 1937	1
525	COSMAS, INDICOPLEUSTES	Greek	Yule, Henry	London 1866	3
1518	CASTANHEDA, FERNAO DE	Portugu.	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1993	5
1519	GOMES, JOAO	Portugu.	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1993	9
1554	SEIDI ALI REIS	Turkish	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1993	11
1586	COMMELIN, ISAK	Dutch	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1993	19
1690	DUQUENSNE, ABRAHAM	French	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1993	25
1783	H.M.S. "CATO"	English	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1993	29
1785	DICKSON, ADOLPHUS	English	Dickson, Adolphus	Goa 1785	49
1787	MALDIVE FOLKLORE	Malayalam	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1993	53
1805	LEYDEN, JOHN CASPER	English	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1993	59
1833	MUHAMMAD MUR-UD-DIN I	English	Vilgon, Lars	Calcutta 1834	71
1836	MORESBY, ROBERT	English	Moresby, Robert	London 1840	73
1838	PARIS, FRANCOIS	French	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1993	129
1885	BARTHOLMEUZ, OLIVER	English	Bartholmeusz, O.	London 1885	133
1885	ROSSET, CARL WILHELM	German	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1993	189
1886	CENSUS, VILGON, LARS	Divehi	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1993	199
1921	MALDIV-AFRICA, VILGON, L.	Divehi	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1993	211
1993	MALDIV MAP, VILGON, L.	Divehi	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm 1993	223

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three months to complete the work. The survey of Agathi, Kalpeni and Androth was made final by me but there are heavy areas of paimash, particularly in Androth and no paimash could be done on Minicoy as fresh survey is necessary to identify the boundaries. The Wireless station however was surveyed and a plan made. As I have said it is impossible now for the Surveyor and Inspecting Officer in the time at their disposal to keep pace with the paimash and resurvey needing to be done.

Mom, 88. Finally I have much pleasure in recording the service rendered by my staff. They were as follows:

- 1.) M. V. Narayana Iyer (Island Clerk,)
- 2.) K. A. Krishnan Nair (Typist, Malappuram,)
- 3.) V. Narayanan Nair (Clerk, Huzur,)
- 4.) T. Padmanabhan (Accountant, Huzur,)
- 5.) P. Moideen (Duffadar of Additional Dt. Magistrate,)
- 6.) K. M. Rayan (Havildar, Malappuram,)
- 7.) M. Gopalan Nair (Peon, Huzur,)
- 8.) N. Achuthan Nair (Surveyor,)

The Island clerk was competent and active under all the difficulties inseparable during such a trip. Messrs. Narayanan Nair and Krishnan Nair worked well out of door and in office and the latter has had much hard work in connection with the typeing of this report. Except perhaps for Padmanabhan the whole party had an interesting and enjoyable experience.

Mom, 89. I am pleased to record also the uniform fondness with which the party was treated by Lieut. Van Geyzel R. I. N. R. Officer-in-command of R.M.I.S. "St. ANTHONY" and his Officers and men. They did every thing they could for me and my party and we were left with the same feeling of respect for the work of the Royal Indian Navy which is recorded by all those who have had contact with the Royal Navy.

Mom, 91. The master of the Minicoy vessel "OMER FARRUQ" and his crew deserve special praise for bringing the party successfully from Island to Island without a single break in the time-table. Many parties who sailed in more pretentious vessels have failed to do this and we travelled as comfortably and easily as could be expected.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant,

J.C. GRIFFITHS, Inspecting Officer.

Malappuram 3rd May, 1943.

MALDIVE ODD HISTORY.
Contents of Volume Four.

A Collection of 13 Entries translated to English
from 7 Languages. 258 pages with 126 figures.

YEAR CONC- ERNED	AUTHOR or ITEM	LANGUAGE ORIGINAL	ENGLISH ADAPTATION	WRITTEN / PUBLISHED	YEAR	PAGE No
1295	DIMASHQI, SHAMS AL DIN	Arabic	Vilgon,Lars	St Petersburg	1866	1 1
1316	WILLIAM ADAM	Armenian	Vilgon,Lars	Paris	1906	2 3
1414	IBRAHIM I, RASGE KALA	Chinese	Vilgon,Lars	Peking	1597	2 7
1596	HOUTMAN, CORNELIES DE	Dutch	Vilgon,Lars	Dortrecht	1828	2 11
1683	WARREN, Naturalist	English	Vilgon,Lars	London	1684	7 15
1805	LEYDEN, JOHN CASPER	Divehi	Vilgon,Lars	Madras	1805	3 29
1819	SAYYID AGAMMA DULLA	Divehi	Vilgon,Lars	Male	1819	2 35
1835	MORESBY, ROBERT	English	Vilgon,Lars	Bombay	1835	7 39
1835	ROBERTSON, GEORGE	English	Vilgon,Lars	Bombay	1835	5 53
1835	CAMPBELL, DAVID	English	Vilgon,Lars	Bombay	1835	21 63
1836	BOYCE, "PRENTICE"	English	Vilgon,Lars	Bombay	1837	24 105
1900	FESTETICS TOLNA, RUDOLP.	French	Vilgon,Lars	Paris	1904	21 153
1977	MALDIVE LANGUAGE	Divehi	Original text.	Male	1978	32 194

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