MALDIVE ODD HISTORY

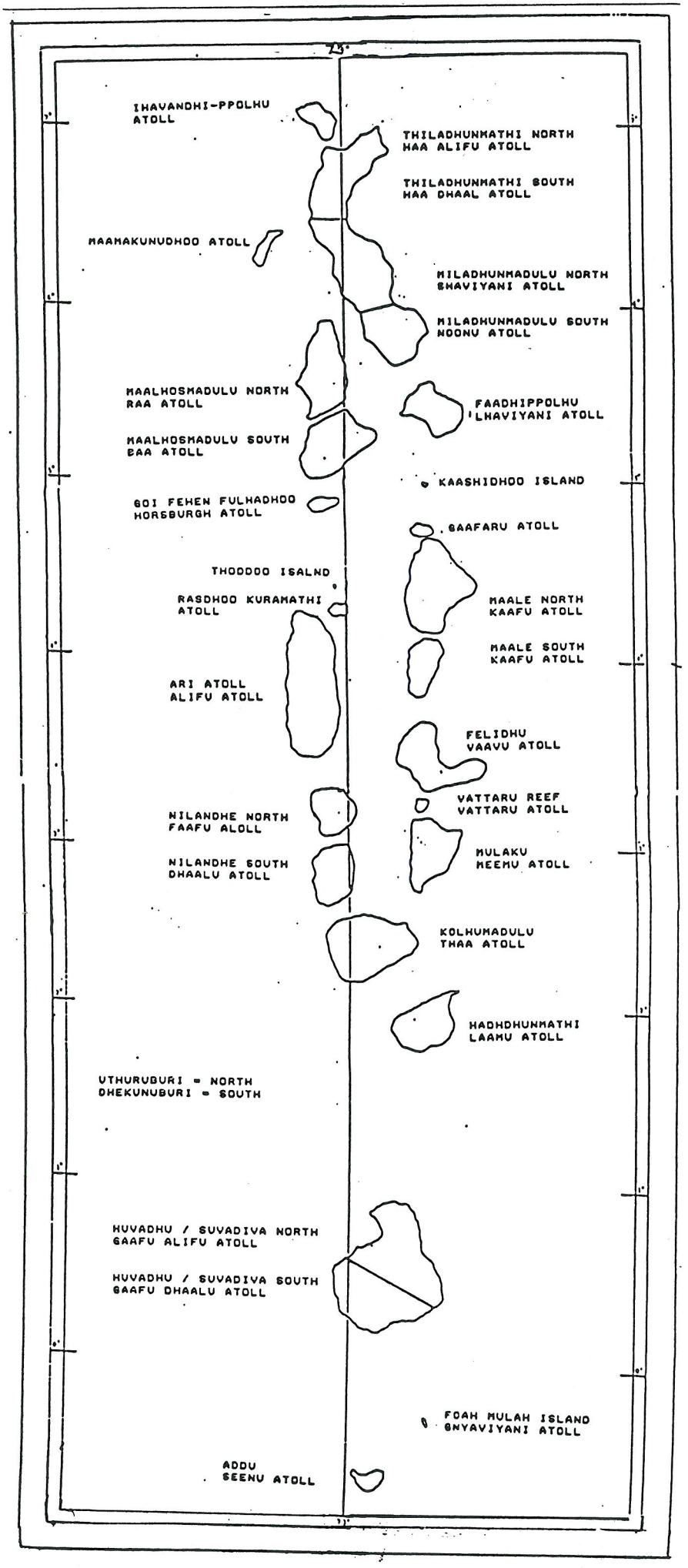
THE MALDIVE ARCHIPELAGO AND ITS PEOPLE

VOLUME SIX

LARS VILGON

STOCKHOLM 1996

No. 17.


IHAVANDHI-PPOLHU ATOLL
THILADHUNMATHI NORTH HAA ALIFU ATOLL
THILADHUNMATHI SOUTH HAA DHAAL ATOLL
MAAMAKUNUDHOO ATOLL
MILADHUNMADULU NORTH SHAVIYANI ATOLL
MILADHUNMADULU SOUTH NOONU ATOLL
MAALHOSMADULU NORTH RAA ATOLL
FAADHIPPOLHU ILHAVIYANI ATOLL
MAALHOSMADULU SOUTH BAA ATOLL
KAASHIDHOO ISLAND
GOI FEHEN FULHADHOO HORSBURGH ATOLL
GAAFARU ATOLL
THODDOO ISALND
RASDHOO KURAMATHI ATOLL
MAALE NORTH KAAFU ATOLL
MAALE SOUTH KAAFU ATOLL
ARI ATOLL ALIFU ATOLL
FELIDHU VAAVU ATOLL
VATTARU REEF VATTARU ATOLL
NILANDHE NORTH FAAFU ALOLL
MULAKU MEEMU ATOLL
NILANDHE SOUTH DHAALU ATOLL
KOLHUMADULU THAA ATOLL
HADHDHUNMATHI LAAMU ATOLL
UTHURUBURI = NORTH
DHEKUNUBURI = SOUTH
HUVADHU / SUVADIVA NORTH GAAFU ALIFU ATOLL
HUVADHU / SUVADIVA SOUTH GAAFU DHAALU ATOLL
FOAH MULAH ISLAND GNYAVIYANI ATOLL
ADDU SEENU ATOLL

The present "Maldive Odd History" Vol. 6. contains all of Commander ROBERT MORESBY's manuscript letters and articles from the the Maldive Islands survey 1834-1837, in all 55 pages. Futhermore I have succeeded in finding a legible copy of Mr HARRY C.P. BELL's "Papers relating to the Maldive Islands", Part II and Part III. 1904-10, 114 pages.

H. M. S. "CATO" of 50 canon, Admiral HYDE PARKER, that disappeared 1783 with men and all, without leaving any trace. See: "M.O.H. Vol.3". I here present another circumstantial "evidence/proof" of "CATOS" disaster at the Maldive Islands.

I present 'The Catalogue of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition 1886 in London', and 'The Catalogue of the World's Columbian Exposition 1893 in Chicago', with respect-ively about 400 and 500 Maldive items, and with explaining text. This is more than any Exposer is able to exhibit today. Mr CARL WILLHELM ROSSET was the main collector of the Maldive objects.

Due to the reproducing method of the Book the Illustrations do not appear to their best. I am preparing for the storing of them on "PHOTO C.D."

The next "Maldive Odd History" Vol.7. will mainly contain translations into English of German and Russian articles from different old and new Publications.

Once again, my wife CONNIE FROM VILGON, has been my greatest help in my work with the book. CONNIE you have made me aware of my mistakes and corrected them. Thank you for your kind interest.

Stockholm 20th Jan. 1996.

Lars Vilgon

Lars Vilgon.

MALDIVE ODD HISTORY.

Contents of Volume Six.

A Collection of 16 Entries translated to English from 5 Languages. 258 pages with 70 figures.

YEAR CONC-ERNED	AUTHOR or ITEM	LANGUAGE ORIGINAL	ENGLISH ADAPTATION	WRITTEN / PUBLISHED	YEAR	PAGE Text	
150	PTOLEMY, CLAUDIUS	Greec	Vilgon, Lars.	Stockholm	1996	1	1
890	ABU ZAYD AL BALKHI	Arabic	Vilgon, Lars.	Stockholm	1996	1	3
1321	ABU L FEDA	Arabic	Vilgon, Lars.	Stockholm	1996	1	5
1330	FRIAR JORDANUS	Latin	Yule, Henry	London	1863	1	7
1513	TOME PIRES	Portugu.	Cortesão, Arm.	London	1944	1	9
1783	H.M.S."CATO" No.5.	English	Vilgon, Lars.	Bombay	1835	2	11
1834-1837	MORESBY, R. LETTERS	English	Vilgon, Lars.	Maldive I.	1837	27	15
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PARENTHESES USED.

(....) = Content's Information.
[....] = Bibliographic Information.
<....> = Doubtful Information / Source.
«....» = Translation into English.



BUDDHA FACE OF CORALL STONE.
A.D.1000.ca. MAALHOS ISLAND.
BAA ATOLL. EVIDENCE FOR THE
BUDDHISTIC BELIEF AMONG THE
INHABITANTS OF THE MALDIVES.

DISCOVERED and COLLECTED by
LARS VILGON. 1984. Photo.



MALDIVE MAP, AFTER PTOLEMY A.D. 150 ca.
Note, LATITUDE and LONGITUDE.
MAP, VILGON Coll.

150 A.D. PTOLEMY, CLAUDIUS.

IN: Geograph of Claudius Ptolemy, Transl, by STEVENSON, EDWARD LUTHER,
The New York Public Library, New York 1932. P.158-159.

Claudius Ptolemy was a Greek scientist and geographer who lived in Alexandria in Egypt in the second century A.D. (year ca. 90-150), and he wraught eight geographical books about the known world. In Book No. 7, he describes the countries around the Indian Ocean. In Chapter No. 4, the Maldives are mentioned as a number of Islands. Ptolemy had his own gradation for over 8,000 named localities, i.e. something like Longitude and Latitude, and it is remarkable how well he knew where the different places were located on the map. [GREEK]

Location of the Island of Taprobana.

Cory, a promontory of India is opposite the promontory of the Island of Taprobans, which formerly was called the Island of Symondi [CEYLON], now by the natives Salica. Those who inhabit it, in the common language, are called Salae, all of the women are covered with hair.

Among these rice, honey, ginger, beryl, amethyst, also gold, silver, and other metals are found. It produces elephants and tigers. Its promontory, which is said to be opposite Cory has the location 126 oo / 12 30 and is called Boreum. [Top of Jafna peninsula.]

[*Ptolemy describes Ceylon in particular minutes and mentions 46 different places with name and "Long- and Latitud", L.Vilgon.*]

[Locations of the Maldive Islands]

<u>There are many Islands around Taprobana [The Maldive Islands], which are said to number one thousand three hundred and seventy eight, 1.378. But the names of those which have been handed down are:</u>

Vangana	E	120 15,	N 11 20,	Canathara	E	121 40,	N 11 15,
Orneos	E	119 oo,	N 8 30,	Egidion	E	119 oo,	N 8 30,
Harmacha	E	116 15,	N 0 15,	Ammina	E	117 oo,	N 4 30,
Carcus	E	118 oo,	S 40 oo,	Philicus	E	116 30,	S 2 40,
Irena	E	120 oo,	S 2 30,	Calandadrus	E	121 oo,	S 5 30,
Arana	E	125 oo,	S 5 30,	Bassa	E	126 oo,	S 6 30,
Balaca	E	129 oo,	S 5 30,	Alaba	E	131 oo,	S 4 oo,
Cumara	E	133 oo,	S 1 40,	Zaba	E	135 oo,	Equator,
Nagadiba	E	135 oo,	N 8 30,	Zibala	E	135 oo,	N 4 15,
Susuara	E	130 oo,	N 11 15,				

[E = East, N = North, S = South,]

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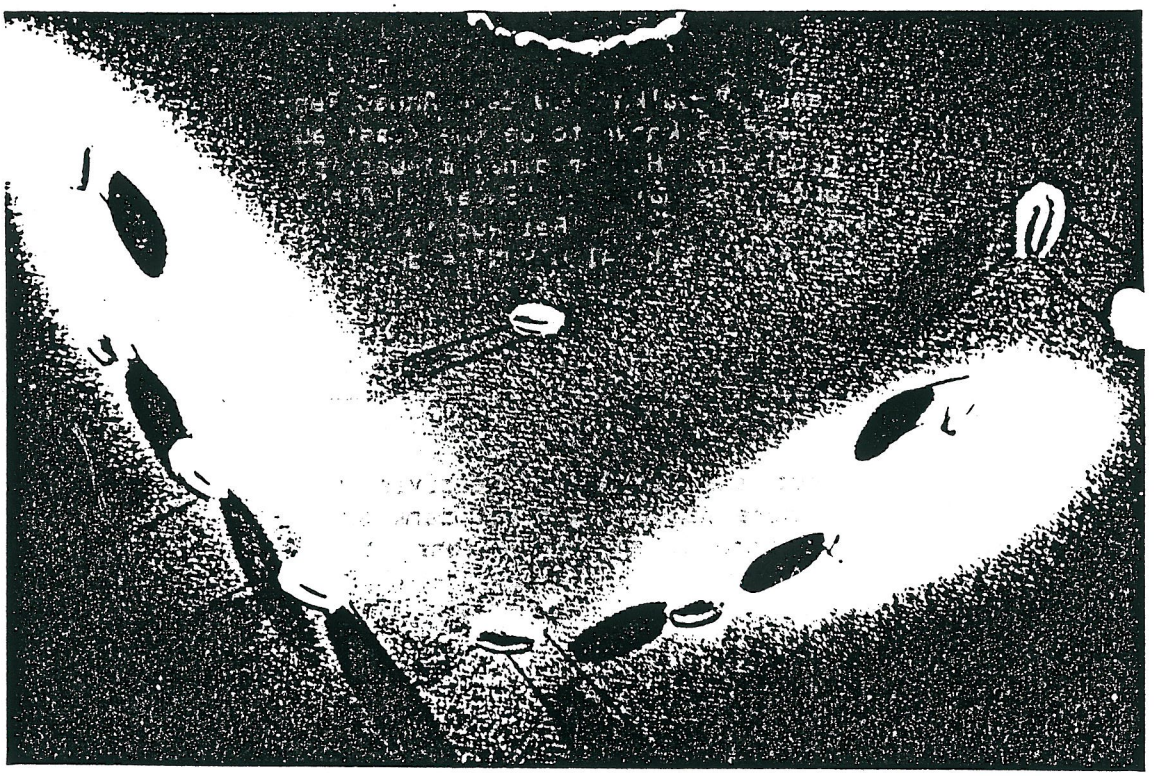


COWRIES of SILVER. 2000 YEARS B.C.
EGYPTSIAN GRAVE. EGYPTSIAN MUSEEUM. BERLIN.
PHOTO. 1995. VILCON Coll.

890. ABU ZAYD.

IN: Geographie d'Aboulfeda, Translated to French and commented by JOSEPH TOUSSAINT REINAUD, Tome I, Introduction § III, P.CCCXXXIX, Paris 1848.

IN: Le Livre de la Création et de l'Histoire Abou Zéid Ahmed ben Sahl el-Balkhi, Manuscript de Constantionple, Transl, CL, HUART, Vol.16,17,18,21,22, Langues Orientales Vivantes, Paris 1899-1903.

ABU-ZAYD, Proper name; Al-balkhi Abu Zayd Ahmad Ben Sahl, Lived from 850 to 934 in Irak, and is known to be the first author of all later classical Arabic geography, His original manuscripts are all lost, but copies are known under the names of "Suwar al-Akalim" and "Takwim al-Buldan", The translation by J, T, Reinaud in his book about "ABOU l FEDA", is an exact original to Al BIRUNI's description from 1030.

[ARABIC / FRENCH]

It is peculiar about the "DYVAH" [Maldives] that they rise slowly [from the sea], There appears a sandy bank above the ocean's surface, it extends more and more in all directions, till it at last forms the soil of an Island, At the same time another Island falls into decay and melts away and is finally submerged and all disappears into the ocean.

As soon as the inhabitants become aware of this process, they search for a new Island and look for future prosperity, Then they transport to that Island all their belongings, cocoanut trees, palms, cerials and finally emigrate to it and make it their new home.

This Islands [DYVAH] are divided into two different classes according to their products.

Some are called "DYVAH KOUZAH" and they produce Cowrie shells [Kouzah], because they [the inhabitants] gather the Cowrie shells from the branches of the cocoanut palms, which they have placed in the sea. [The Maldive Islands]

Some are called "DIVAH KANBAR", where the word Kanbar stands for the fibres taken from the cocoanut, And [these fibres] twisted [by the inhabitants] into ropes, which are used for building and sailing their ships. [The Laccadive Islands] ***



MALDIVE MAP, INDIAN OCEAN,
MAP, Beginning 1400, VILGON Coll,

1321. ABU L FEDA.

IN: Manuscript Bibliotheque Imperial de Vienne, Vienna,
Manuscript Bibliotheque Royale de Paris, Paris,

IN: Geographie D'ABULFEDA, Traduite de l'Arabe en Francais, Accompagnée de Notes et d'Eclaircissements, M. JOSEPH THOUSSAINT REINAUD, Tome I, P.CCCLXXXVIII, Paris 1848.

Abu-l-Fida Ismail ibn Ali, who lived 1273-1331, became 1310 governor of Hamat in Syria, and got the title of Sultan 1320. He fought against the crusaders and the mongols. As Arabian scientist and geographer he produced 1321 a most valuable manuscript of geography for the whole world. In that he quotes "all" earlier geographers. [ARABIC]

Text:

Soleyman gives the number of the Islands in the Laccadive and the Maldive archipelagoes to 1.900. They are after Soleyman named "Dydadjat". This name, is a form of plural person, but is coming from the indigenous "Dyb" or "Dyba" or more frequent "Douipa". This word is used in the whole Indian Region, and signifies "Isle" or "Islands".

Nevertheless, this name is of an old influence from the Persian language in this district, dependant on their dominans of their King / Sovereign investigating it and they answer to the world "Divis" in one passage of Ammien-Marcellin. There are some sentances from Suleyman in his description of the Maldives.

Cosmas says about the Maldive Islands and Laccadive Islands in a few words as the merchand Suleyman. He writes: Outside the Island "Taprobane", there are a great number of other small Islands. All of them can produce fresh water and have many coconut-palms. They are situated very close to each other.

Al Byrouny calles the Islands "Dybadjat" and divides them into two groups. The "Dybah-Kanbar" and the "Dybah-Kouzah". d'Albyrouny follows the script of de Soleyman and d'Aboy-Zeyd.

[*For the text See; ABU ZAYD in this Book.*] ***

IVE ISLANDS. MAP. A.D.1744.
HASIO. AUGUST GOTTLOB BOELINUO.
D. 1995. VILGON Coll.



1330. FRIAR JORDANUS.

IN: Mirabilia Descripta, By: Friar Jordanus, ca. 1330.
The Recueil de Voyages et de Mémoires, Society of Geography, Paris 1839.

IN: The Wonders of the East, By: Friar Jordanus, ca. 1330.
Translated and Commentary By: Colonel Henry Yule, Hakluyt Society, No.31, P.28, London 1863.

Friar JORDANUS came from "The Order of Preachers" and was Bishop of Columbum in India. His name may have been Jordanus Catalani, and he was a native of the village Séverac in France. He lived in India two times, 1321-1323 and 1330-1335. He wrote the book "Mirablia Descripta" about his experiences in India and there is one short sentance of little interest about the Maldive Islands. [LATIN]

TEXT:

In this India be many Islands, and more than 10.000 of them inhabited, as I have heard. [The Maldive Islands] Wherein are many world's wonders.

For there is one called Silem [Ceylon], where are found the best precious stones in the whole world, and in the greatest quantity and number, and of all kinds.

Between that Island and the main are taken pearls or marguerites, in such quantity as be quite wonderful.

So indeed that there are sometimes more than 8,000 boats or vessels, [engaged in fishery] for three months continuously.

It is astounding, and almost incredible, to those who have not seen it, how many [pearls] are taken. ***



ONE OF THE SULTANS SPEAR FIGHTERS.
PHOTO. ca.1910. VILGON Coll.

1513. TOME PIRES.

IN: Manuscripts in: Bibliotéque de la Chambre des Députés, Paris. Catalogue Général des Manuscritps des Bibliothéques Publiques de France. Written between 1512 and 1515. By: TOMÉ PIRES.

IN: The SUMA ORIENTAL of TOME PIRES, Trans. CORTESÃO, ARMANDO. Vol.1. Hakluyt Society. London 1944.

I have selected all the places where the Maldives "DIVA" or "DIPA" are mentioned. About the Slaves brought to Java in the beginning of the 15-hundreds from the Maldive Islands in Maldive ships, it is stated in manuscripts that slaves in the Maldives were of two different kinds. First, Maldivians who had "sold" themselves for money to welthier Maldivians. These slaves had to work themselves free, if not, their children had to do it. Secondly, negro-slaves who were imported from Arabia/Africa, and it is even today easy to distinguish the descendents from them among the Maldive population. I have no ideas about which kind of the slaves, who were sold to/in Java. [PORTUGUESE]

MALABAR. There are numbers of cocoa palms with cocoa-nuts, and areca palms with betel-nuts along the Malabar coast. Their number is enormous. The Traders from Malabar trade with their ships along the coast to Persia, and go to the Coromandel coast, as well as Ceylon and the Maldive Islands. ("DIVA" is the word used for the Maldives, and this is the first time mentioned by a European, instead of "ILHAS MALDIVIO".) They are all Moors these merchants, and all the trade is in their hands.

COWRIES. Cowries are used as coinage in Orissa, Bengal, Arakan and Pegu. Bengal cowries are bigger and have in their middle a yellow colour. They are also valid in Orissa. An other kind of cowries are used in Pegu and Arakan. These special cowries are imported from the Maldives Islands ("DIVA") in great quantities. The small currency of Pegu and Arakan are small white Cowries imported from the Maldive ("DIVA") Islands. From these Islands are as well a great quantity of Handkechiefs imported in the kingdoms of Pegu and Arakan.

SLAVES. In the kingdom of Sunda (Java) with the great city of Daio (Close to present Djakarta), they export good pepper, and they also export tamarinds upp to one thousand ships a year. The main trade is in slaves, male and female, who come from their own country as well as others who are brought there from the Maldive Islands. The distance from Sunda to the Maldive Islands is six or seven days. Their main export is rice. The Sunda kingdom with the good chief port Bantam (West of Djakarta.) where there is much trading and a good river. This port has direct trade with the Maldive Islands. Bantam has a great export of rice.

SHIPPING. The ships from Cairo, from Mecca, from Aden, and ships with the Parsees, Turks, and Armenians go together in groups to Gujarat, and sail from there in March and go direct to Malacca. On their return journey they usually call at the Maldive Islands. ***

WILLMOT CHRISTOPHER. Manuscript 1835.
The pages where the inhuman treatment of
shipwrecked sailors in Male is described.
PRESUMABLY H.M.S."CATO", LOST 1783.
MICROFILM. VILGON Coll.

1783. H.M.S. "CATO" RECORD 5.

IN: Manuscript from 1835 written by WILLMOT CHRISTOPHER and in the hands of The Honurable Company's Board in Bombay. (Presented here)

IN: Memoir on the Inhabitants of the Maldiva Islands. By: Lieut. I. A. YOUNG, and Mr. W. CHRISTOPHER, I.N. Transactions Bombay Geograpical Society. Vol.I. P.64-65. Bombay 1836-38. [TEXT in BRACKET]

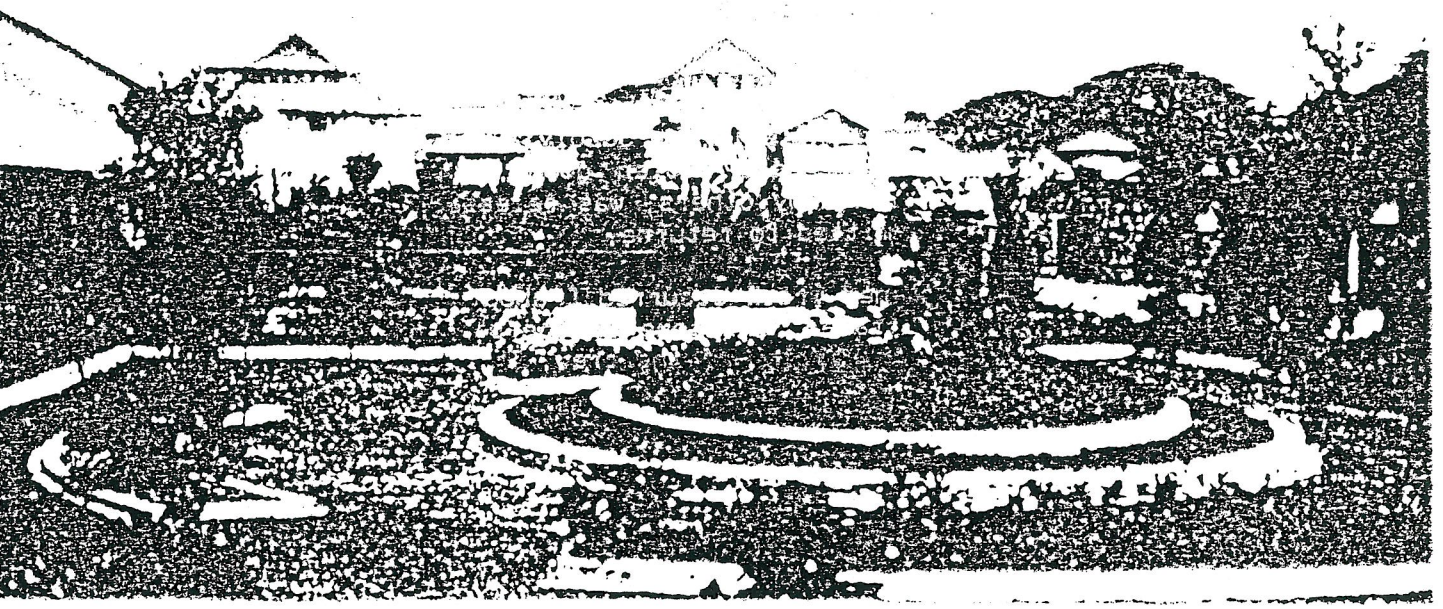
Midshipman Willmott Christopher is the sole author of the Report as Lieutenant I. A. Young was to sick to participate. [Moresby's letter] This part of the Report is another proof that the H.M.S. "CATO" was shipwrecked in the close vicinity of the Male Island, the crew saved, and later massacred, murdered and plundered by the natives of Male. Christopher, as well as myself, was confused by the Chittagong trader, who describes the well known shipwreck of the French privateer at Suadiva Atoll about 1798. The shipwreck Lieutenant Young wanted to report to the Superintendent was a ship driven ashore on or close to Male Island, and obviously Young and Christopher observed natives in Male, who 1835 were still using articles from that ship, the "CATO". The two officers, and the Indian Navy, did in 1835 not know the true whereabouts of the H.M.S. "CATO". [ENGLISH]

During the early part of our residence [in Male] we did indeed hear of certain transactions which, if true, would have stamped, with deceit and treachery, the character of the Islanders, but subsequent observations [information] induced us to attach little credit to the reports in question.

[We allude to certain reports of the crews of wrecked vessels alleged to have suffered inhuman treatment at the hands of the Natives. But the statements of those individuals who were said to have witnessed the facts when questioned by us, marked as they were by consistency and with every appearance of truth, greatly strengthened our suspicion of the incorrectness of the accounts which had reached us. (Printed copy)]

We had opportunities of which we did not find to wait ourselves, it coming with the Natives who were pointed out as possessing a knowledge of past occurences, wherein the crews of wrecked vessels were oblight to have suffered inhuman treatment at the hands of the Natives, and the statement of those individuals, marked as they were by consistency and with very apparent of truth, greatly strengthened our suspicion of the correctness [Note: In the printed papers "incorrctness"] of the accounts which had reached us.

It is true the natives generally showed much reverse and unwillingness to converse on the subject of the reports in question, but the same feelings were also manifested in regard to the particulars connected with the present state of the Islands, and to passing as well as past events. It is not at all impossible that traders visiting Male, hearing some account of ship wrecks, or seeing in possession of the Natives, articles, which not being usually imported, could only have been acquired from vessels driven amongst the Islands,



MALE. "BRAHIM MAIDEN" SULTANS PALACE.
PHOTO. AMIN DIDI. 1949. VILGON Coll.

Observing also the backwardness of the Natives to answer inquiries respecting matters, and attributing this to a desire to conceal the facts, though they are equally incommunicative on every subject relating to the affairs of the Islands. It is, we think, not unlikely, that under such circumstances, the traders would, out of such questionable materials, conjure up tales of murder and bloodshed, which had no foundation.

In fact we ourselves were first inclined to credit some of the reports of this nature which we heared, and Lieutenant YOUNG considered it his duty to address the Superintendent of the Indian Navy, to make known, to him what we had heared respecting one particular case, in which a vessel driven ashore on shore on Male, was stated to have been plundered by the Natives, who it was alleged, murdered the crew, and found much treasure on board.

[*Note that Midshipman Christopher wrights that Lieutenant Young "considered it his duty" to report about "one particular case" of a ship "driven on shore on Male" and that the natives "murdered the crew". Young wanted to inform "the Superintendent of the Indian Navy" as he must have had some verbal information that the ship had been an English / Indian Navy ship. L.Vilgon.*]

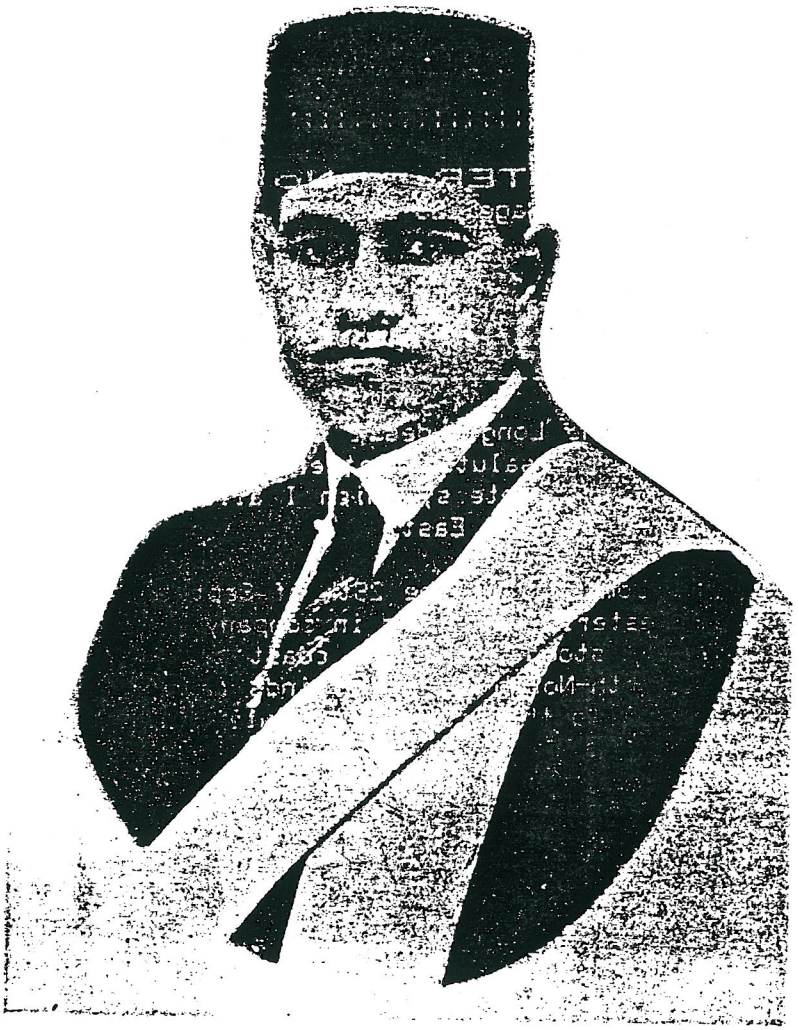
What first led us to doubt the truth of the statement, was a conversation we had, in private with a Native of Chittagong, who had been 33 [35] years in exile in the Suadivia Atoll, whither he had been banished for having purchased stolen goods. On the accession of the present Sultan he, with many others, was released from the operation of his sentence, and permitted to returne.

When the above mentioned wreck occurred [about 1798. L.V.], he was at Male, as a resident trader, and some of the particulars relating to it, he had from the Native portion of the crew. The vessel, he stated, was a merchantman of large size from Surat [N.E-India], bound to the Mauritius, having on board specie, and all the plunder obtained by the Frenchmen on board during a privateering cruize.

When she was wreched, the French officers and Men were most of them, in a sickly state. During their stay at Male they were occupied in getting the dollars from the vessels hold, into which it appeared the rock had worked, and when they had got out all they could, they were provided with a passage to the continent. One of them, however, remained behind from choice. He turned Musulman, married on the island, and died in 1831, leaving an only daughter who is now married.

Many dollars it appears, were found after the departure of the French, who gave up the search owing chiefly to the difficulty of getting at them, and the sickness amongst their party. As our informant, who stood a close cross-examination, was consistent in his account, and had apparently no motive for deceiving us, or concealing the truth, his statement appears more entitled to credit than the other version of the story, resting, as it does, merely on vague reports.

[*Note that this French privateering ship, shipwreched on the Suadiva Atoll around 1798, with the salvaged crew and gold cargo did returned to India, has indeed nothing to do with a ship stranded on Male Island where all the crew was murdered and plundered. The "CATO" stranded 1783, 52 years before the Chittagong merchant made his statement in 1835, and long before he started his Maldive trading. L.Vilgon.*] ***



SULTAN AMIR ABDUL MAJID DIDI, 1943-1953,
"Father of the Modern Maldives"
PHOTO, ca.1946, VILGON Coll.

1834—37. MORESBY, ROBERT.

IN: Correspondence between Captain ROBERT MORESBY and Admiral CHARLES MALCHOM during the survey of the MALDIVE ISLANDS from June 1834 to May 1837. Title: Papers of Vice Admiral Sir Charles Malcom. Manuscripts. Section for personal papers "MALCHOM". Ref. No."MAL/7". P.195-326. National Maritime Museum. Greenwich, London. [ENGLISH]

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MORESBY's LETTER No. 1.

28 Sept. - 31 Oct. 1834. Page 225-236.

On the Survey of the Maldiva Archipelagoa. Letter from Commander Robert Moresby to Superintendent Charles Malchom. Colombo Road Oct. 31th 1834.

In all my remarks of the Longitudes [it is] deduced from BOMBAY. I take my departure from the saluting battery, the spot we look our sight for registrating our chronometers, which I allow to be in Latitude 18° 56' North and Longitude 72° 56' East.

On the morning [in Bombay] of the 28th of Sept. 1834 we ["BENARES"] weighed with light Westerly winds and in company with our tenders "ROYAL TIGER" and "MALDIVA", stood along the coast to the Southward. On the 29th we had light North-North-Westerly winds making but slow progress, the current setting us to the Southward 17 miles this last 24 hours. On the 30th of Sept. still light North-Westerly breezes and smooth waters the current still setting to the Southward 17 miles in 24 hours. On the 1 of Oct. light North-Westerly airs and calm. No current this day at 24 hours. We passed a mile and a half to the West-ward of the VENGORLA ROCKS or BURNT ISLAND more properly speaking as they certainly appear to be volcanic, some of the larger islands appear 80 or 90 feet in height. Mr. HORSBURG states, "these VENGORLA ROCKS are 15 or 20 feet above the water". In this I think he is misinformed.

Since leaving BOMBAY the thermometer has been between 79° and 84°. To day this instrument unfortunately fell down and broke but Dr. CAMPBELL kindly supplied another. At midnight on the first, light airs and calmes. Anchored near the coast in 12 fathoms lead. On the 2nd with light North-Westerly wind weighed and stood for ALGOADA POINT the Northen cape of GOA BAY where we anchored this morning. Here we obtained observations for our chronometers and made the jetty at the Fort under ALGOADA POINT 55' 41" East of BOMBAY. We could not obtain good observations for the Latitude, the sky being too cloudy.

We remained here a short time to procure stock, having little expectation of obtaining any at the MALDEEVE ISLANDS. Soon after we anchored, some of the officers and myself went up the river in the tender the "MALDIVEEVE" and paid a visit of ceremony to the Portuguese Governor of GOA, who received us very politely and offered us every assistance. From this gentleman I obtained two beautiful large birds the



FIRST PRESIDENT of THE MALDIVE ISLANDS, 1953.
MUHAMED AMIN DIDI, Former Prime Minister,
PHOTO, 1948, VILGON Coll.

Belearie Crane. Both of which I have kept alive by feeding them on grain, these birds came originally from ZANZIBAR on the coast of AFRICA. Many African slave we observed in GOA, principally the property of the better sort of Portuguese judging from what little we saw of GOA. I should say it is fast falling to decay. Their churches neglected and the inhabitants poor and unemployed so silent is the town and suburbs it looks like a deserted city.

On the morning of the 3rd of Oct. I intended to weigh but light winds and calms with cloudy and rainy weather prevented our doing so till the following day. This is a vile anchorage for a ship just after the Westerly monsoon for a long roling swell comes tumbling into the bay causing heavy surf on the bar of the river. It was here that the father of the late captain MORGAN of the Indian Navy lost his life when an officer of one of the East India ships attempting to cross the bar in a boat. She was upset and all hands drowned on the 4th of Oct.

After 3 attempts in weighing the anchor and letting it go again as the wind failed we at last succeeded in getting a little distance from the land and steered to the S.W. with light North-Westerly winds. On the 5th we had light variable winds from East to South-East, South, and West with cloudy squally and rainy weather accompanied by thunder and lightning. Thermometer from 79° to 83°. We only made this day 35 miles from GOA to the S.S.W. On the 6th of Oct. with similar winds and weather and a confused sea we made 44 miles to the South-ward. Thermometer from 80° to 82°. On the 7th of Oct. in the first part we had light variable winds and squaly weather with much rain the latter part moderate breezes set in steady from the Westward with fine weather.

As we were nearing the LACADINE Islands I steered a course to the South-ward allowing for current with ought to have carried us during the night between the LACADIVE Islands of UNDEROO on our left hand and KITTAN on our right, not passing nearer to either of them than 30 miles. But at daylight on the 8th we found ourselves within six miles of the Island of UNDEROO to the S.S.W. of us.

Thus it appeared we had been drifted by current at least 34 miles to the East-ward of our reckoning during the night. This appeared strange with a moderate breeze, clear weather and comparatively smooth water. An hour after brought us to our anchor off the East end of UNDEROO in 19 fathoms, sandy and coral bottom, about 3/4 of a mile from the Island. Being anxious to fix the Longitude of the Island correctly. We took sight on shore per artificial horizon for our chronometers which gave the island 50 miles East of BOMBAY, or our Longitud 73° 46′ East differing from what it is placed in HORSBURGHs charts 14 miles.

This difference is to be accounted for, by the Longitude of MANGALORE, from which and the CHERBANIANI Reef. All these Islands are fixed as stated in my survey of them in 1829. I have therefor every reason to believe MANGALORE to be in 74° 53′ instead of 75° 07′ East, as stated by Mr. HORSBURG. This is more probable as the "BENARES" measurement from BOMBAY to UNDEROO agrees to a mile with my measurement in the "THETIS" from BOMBAY to CHERBANIANI Reef 56′ 11" W. and from CHERBANIANI to UNDEROO 1° 46′ 50" East, making the whole distance from BOMBAY to UNDEROO 50′ 19" East, the same the "BENARES" made it. These two good measurments in different vessels, I think fix beyond doubt the correct



MALDIVE SULTAN MUHAMMED FARID DIDI. 1954-68
PHOTO. KASSIS 1962. VILGON Coll.

position of UNDEROO Island, beeing 50 miles of BOMBAY and CHERBANIANI Reef 56 miles West of BOMBAY.

Now having had two good measurements while surveying these Islands in the "THETIS" from MANGALORE to the CHERBANIANI Reef and from .....

.....

[Here Commander R. MORESBY compares the Longitudes for BOMBAY and MANGALORE for determining the right Long. of the LACCADIVE Islands. He takes the measurements from Director HORSBURGH, Captain OWEN, and Commander MORESBY and in 350 words, on the pages 228-230, he proves a Long. difference of 14'. It shows Commander MORESBY's great interest in being correct, and his vast knowledge of his surveying work. L.Vilgon.]

.....

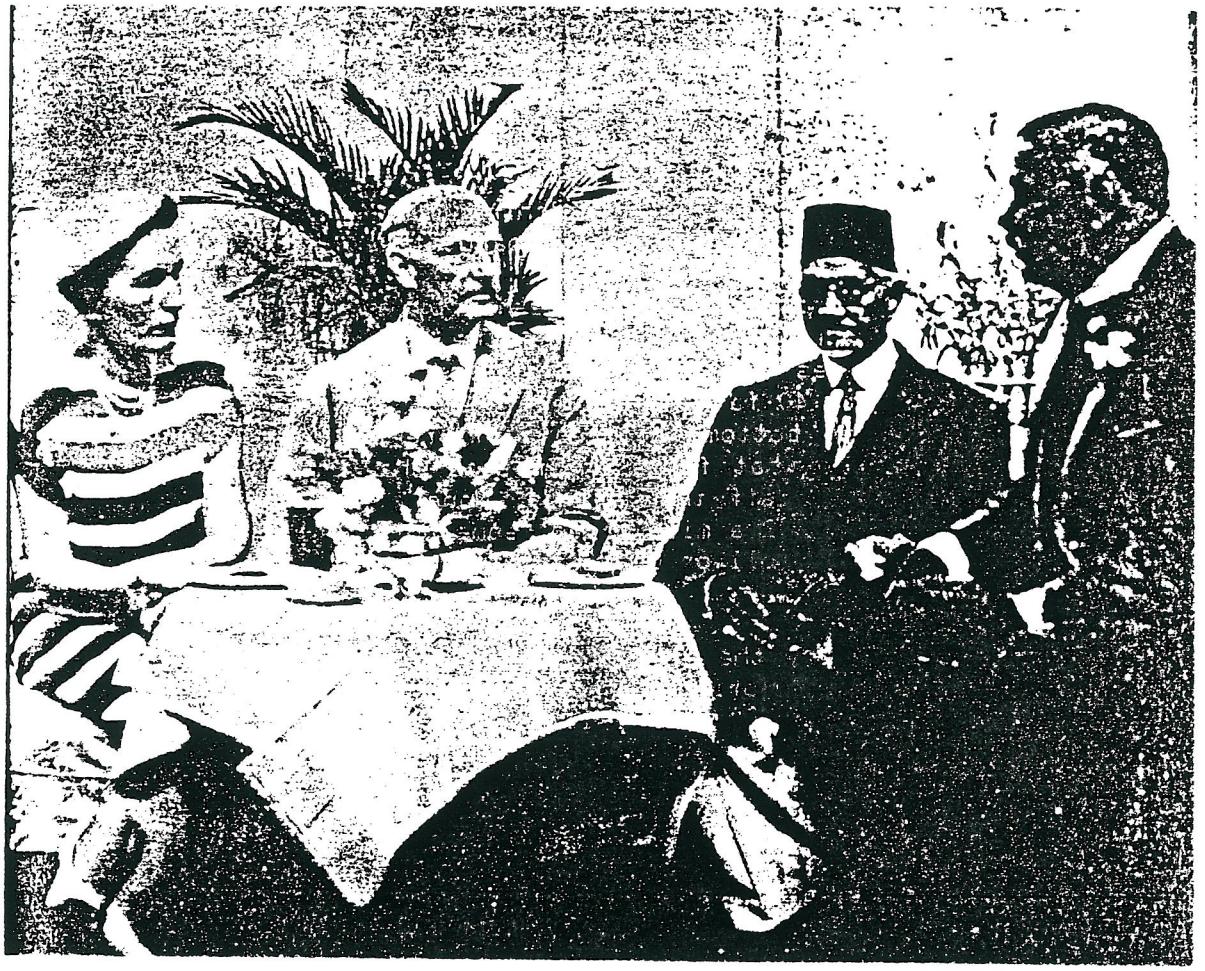
From UNDEROO Island we weighed on the evening of the 8th and on the morning of the 10th we reached MINIKY or MINIACOY Island and anchored in 4 fathoms on a small rocky bank extending about 200 or 300 yards from the Reef off the North Point of the Island. The surf broke very heavy on the Reef and the ship when the anchor was let go, was so close as to be actually in the commencement of the heavy roll about 150 yards from the surf. But giving away to 70 fathoms of chain our stern lay in 20 fathoms just on the edge of the bank close to which there is no bottom.

This is a very dangerous place for a ship to anchor in at any season. The reason for our anchoring at such dangerous place and at so much risk was the impossibility of obtaining any other anchorage. And had we kept under sail in preferance, for a certainty we should have been drifted by the strong currents out of sight of the Island during the night and not have been able to have fixed its situation so corrrectly as we did by observations with the artificial horizon. We made the centre of the Island in Latitude 8° 17′ North and by our chronometers 12′ 49" East of BOMBAY or in Longitud 73° 08′ 49" East.

Mr. HORSBURG places it in 73° 18′ East measured from ANJIUGA on the MALABAR coast, his Latitude of the Island the same as our observations and his description of the Island correct. I am of opinion it would not in any way answer as a coal depot. Fresh water in abundance is to be obtained, poultry and cattle are scarce. Firewood is also plentiful as well as coir rope and yarn, the natural produce of all these Islands. This Island is the largest of any, either the MALDEEVE or LACADIVE but it is one of the LACADIVE Islands and under the CANANORE Government. The inhabitants of this Island are more rich and industrious than any of the other LACADIVE Islands. They trade to CEYLON, MADRAS and CALCUTTA.

In trying to obtain a native pilot or navigator for the MALDEEVE Islands. Their demands for pay were most exorbitant, 100 Rupees a month they first asked. This is what they say they get in all Arabian ships as navigators, and I believe correct. However, we managed to get a very respectable young man for 35 Rupees monthly. After he had packed up his charts, quadrants and compass, we took him on board. We soon after found out he had the itch, a decease very common among these Islands from the quantity of salt fish they eat.

These navigators are rather extraordinary people, they have copies in a manner of all our old charts by which they navigate using our tables for



Lady and Sir Walter HANKINSON, HIGH COMMISIONAR,
Sultan AMIR ABDUL MAJID DIDI and
Prime Minister MUHAMED AMIN DIDI,
LUNCH Feb,1948 (4th), GALLE FACE, COLOMBO.
PHOTO, 1948. VILGON Coll.

the Suns declination which are written off in their language, I tried one day how near the truth this man could take an observation, which he with his own instrument, an English quadrant, took and worked out his own Latitude unassisted, to within two miles of ours. He has promised to show me some day the manner they calculate their Longitude.

From the attention shown to us at this Island I presented the head man with some trifling articles as a present and on the evening of the 11th of Oct, we weighed for the head of the MALDEEVE Islands. And at noon on the 12th of Oct, sighted the Northern Atoll of the MALDEEVE Islands called ZILLA DOU MATIS [THILADHUNMATHI] distant about 12 miles. On nearing them found about 20 Islands came in sight. Five or Six of the nearest forming the Northern part of the group or Northern end of circle the convex side towards us. On approaching these low coral Islands about 6 feet above water and covered with cocoanut trees and bushes.

We found they were not connected together by a band of coral reef but lay quite distinct from each other an the outer edge of a deep coral bank. Having passages from 1/4 to 1/2 and 3/4 of a mile broad with soundings from 30 to 40 fathoms between the Islands. Close outside these Islands there is no bottom. Little or no reef extend off any of the Islands and close to what forms their base these is 16 fathoms and 25 fathoms 1/4 of a mile aff the Islands. None of them appear to be more than a mile long and 1/2 a mile broad, some not more than half that size in the centre of the atoll or deep basin formed by the extensive barrier reef.

We expected to find by the accounts all charts represent to be void of Islands, but to our surprise we saw the centre of this great bank of coral literally covered with Islands, appearantly with blue water between them intimating a considerable depth of soundings. No reefs or dangers appear to obstruct the interior navigation of this atoll, indeed so free it is of dangers a vessel might at night time with ease make it from seaward and anchor among the Islands especially of a moonlight night.

After entering the group we stood to the East about 4 miles and anchored 300 yards off one of the Islands in 25 fathoms sandy bottom. Called MURDOO [MADULU], a small Island about 1/2 a mile long and 1/4 of a mile broad, without inhabitants and the water perfectly smooth. In an hour a catamaran with four natives came on board from one of the large and nearer Islands which our pilot had described as the chief residence. On questioning these people, none of whom spoke Hindustanee, by means of our pilot it appeared the chief did not reside there.

They were not a little surprised at our coming and showed evident symptomes of fear which we tried to quiet by giving them some food. In another hour a fishing boat or one of the Island boats to the Southward, came onboard having 5 men in her of whom were pretty well dressed in coloured cotton principally blue. The first enquiry the head fellow of this boat made was why we came here and what we wanted saying at the same time he had been sent by the principal man of the atoll to make these enquiries and wished to return immediately. I informed him of our purposes, requesting to see the chief as I had letters for his master. He promised to return the next day, but did not.



WALTER RANKINSON, High Commis. CEYLON and
MUHAMED AMIN DIDI, Prime Minister MALDIVES.
Signing the MUTUAL DEFENCE PACT 1948.
PHOTO. 1948. MALE. VILGON Coll.

On the Island close off which we lay at an anchor we found an excellent well of fresh water. After waiting two days the return of the native boat they ventured at last to come on board but without their chief who they said was absent. By this boat and in charge of a respectable native who spoke the Hindustanee language, I sent my letter to the King of the MALDEEVES, giving the man a small present for his trouble he said he should reach Male in 3 days. Having fixed carefully the small Island off which we lay to be in Latitude 7° 03′ 20" North and East of BOMBAY 0° 06′ 42" or Longitud 73° 02′ 42" East.

I directed Lieutenant POWELL, as per copy of my letter, to remain with the "ROYAL TIGER" and "MALDEEVE" while I proceeded to CEYLON. Our stay at THILLA DOU MATIS being so short, I have left the description of this Atoll to Lieutenant POWELL. On the 15th Oct. we weighed for CEYLON, the wind still from the West-ward and steered to the East about 4 miles to get clear of the group and out to seaward. We then hauled to the East-ward and the next Island we sighted was HOLAY [HULHADHOO] right ahead, dist 6 miles. This is the largest passage into this Atoll and is to appearance 6 miles broad. We obtained no soundings in it at 30 fathoms, but I think bottom at 50 or 60 could be obtained. This broad channel into this Atoll, I think would lead a ship into excellent shelter in any season. Wood and water there is in an aboundance. Of THILLA DOU MATIS Atoll I think, would answer well as a coal depot, on the point Lieutenant POWELL will be able to report.

We arrived at COLOMBO on saturday evening the 18th and during our passage over the South West-monsoon continued to blow with squalls and rain and heavy swell, so much so I expected we should have obliged to run for POINT de GALLE on account of the state of the weather but on nearing the land about CEYLON the wind and sea abated still leaning sufficient swell in the roads to make the ship roll and pitch much.

On monday I had an interview with His Exellency the Governor of CEYLON and on Wednesday met him again in company with the Ambassador from MALE, or "KINGS ISLAND" to whom I was made known also the purpose of our coming, he promised to write the Sultan who no doubt would not make any objections to our commencing the survey of the MALDEEVE Islands. He said it would cause alarm at first but that would soon wear off. By our observation at COLOMBO we make the Light House 6° 58′ East of BOMBAY or in Longitude 79° 54′ East and in Latitude by several observation 6° 56′ North.

COLOMBO Road, Oct. 31, 1834. Commander H.C. Surveying Ship "BENARES".
ROBERT MORESBY. ***

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MORESBY's LETTER No. 2. Page 221-224.

On the Survey of the Maldiva Archipelagoa. Letter from Commander Robert Moresby to Superintendent Charles Malchom. COLOMBO 7 Jan. 1835.

1.) Since my last communication to you from CEYLON I have the honour to inform you. I arrived at MALE or "KINGS ISLAND", MALDIVE on the 15th of



CEYLON GOVERNOR HENRY MOORE and,
MALDIVE PRIME MINISTER MUHAMED AMIN DIDI in
MALE HARBOUR in 1948.
PHOTO, 1948, VILGON Coll.

November [1834]. On our arrival I sent an Officer on shore with the Government letters and a message to the Sultan [MUHAMMAD MUIN UD DIN] to say I should be ready to visit him with the presents entrusted to my charge at any appointed time. The officer returned without being able to see the Sultan or deliver the letters.

Soon after some of the head men of the Island came on board and said the Sultan beeing sick and old. Could not be seen, but that they would take charge of the Government letters to the Sultan and deliver them to him and though I could not see him as he was very sick, that his son, a young man, would be ready to receive me in the evening.

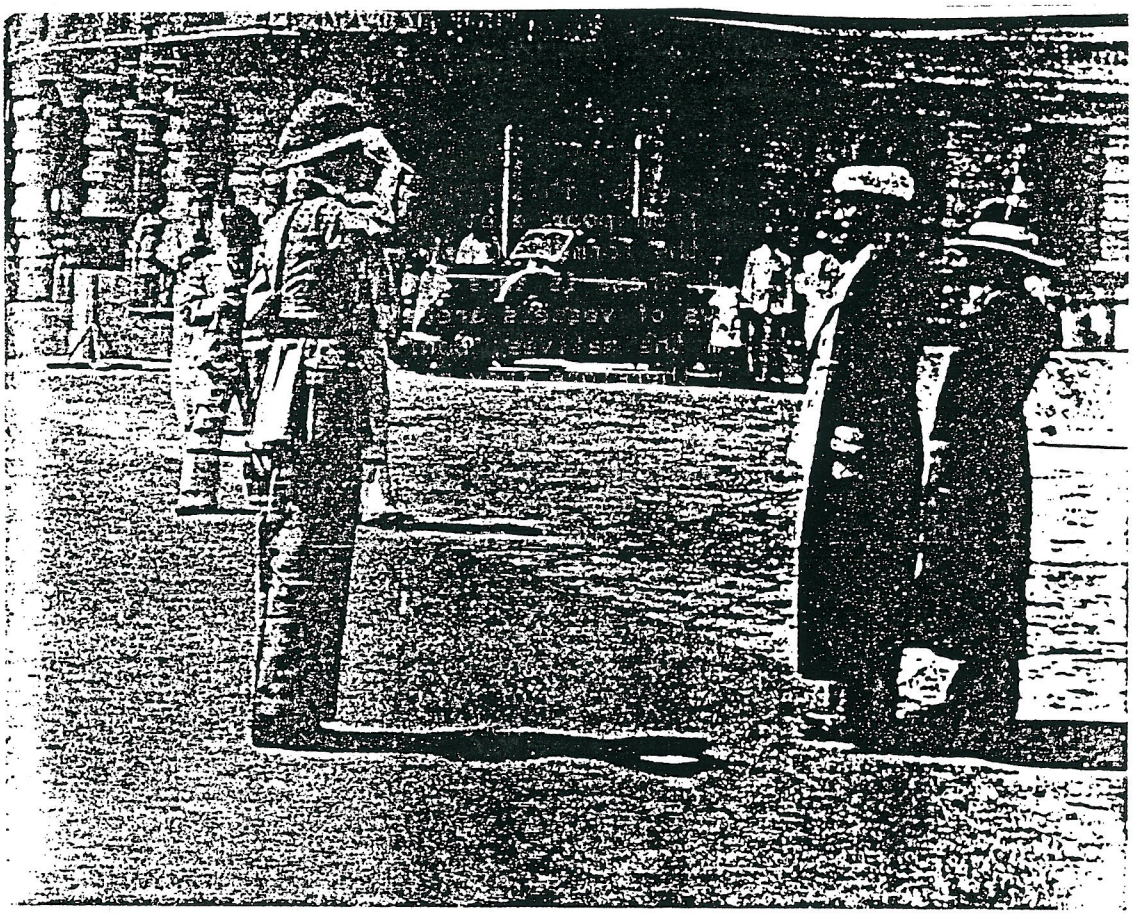
To this man I gave the Government letters and intended according to their arrangements to visit the Sultan's son and deliver the presents. When the time came they sent to say the Sultan's son could not see me but that the Sultan himself would see me in 5 or 6 days. When the day arrived I was to visit the Sultan again a message was sent to say the Sultan was sick and could not see me. Several of his Viziers came on board and begged to assure me of the Sultan's friendship and respect for our Gouvernment and that every assistance should be afforded us during the survey of the Islands.

These men came several times on board and from their friendly and appearent good disposition towards us. I delivered to them the presents for the Sultan. We occassionally received from them a few trilling supplies such as the miserable Islands could afford, praying for the same. After remaining at MALE 15 days blowing hard and rawing nearly the whole time. On the 1st of December I commenced the survey having obtained a native pilot and interpeter, as well as one for the "ROYAL TIGER" tender. A native boat to attend separately the "BENARES" and "ROYAL TIGER" was sent by the Sultan.

2.) On the 4th of Dec. I quitted MALE Atoll in order to get into MILLA DOU MADON Atoll [MILADUNMADULU] before the N.E. monsoon set in strong, but on proceeding a little to the Eastward of MALE Atoll the current set us so much to the S.W. we were 11 days before we could reach MILLA DON MADON Atoll. Up to this date we have finished one half of this Atoll. Lieutenant POWELL in the "ROYAL TIGER" having nearly completed the whole of ZILLA DON MATIS Atoll [THILADHUNMATHU] according to his enclosed report.

3.) I have to remark that the survey of these Islands is most laborious and extremely tedious work and from what I have seen of them, with [will ? L.Vilgon] necessarily take years to complete. The difficulties of this survey are far greater than we ever anticipated. Law coral islands, covered with jungle and cocoa trees, situated close together and on which it is difficult to land, makes a trigonometrical survey double tedious in as much as it is necessary to have immensesable elations by flags on them.

Sounding in the boats between the Islands are so deep. They are able to do but little in one day. I think Atoll TILLA DON MATTIS and Atoll MILLA DON MADOU, the two Northern Atolls of the group are as much as we shall be able to complete by the beginning of April. By the middle of that month I hope to be at COLOMBO, as yet I cannot form a correct idea as to the great time it will take to survey the whole of the MALDEEVA Islands.



MALDIVE LAST ANNUAL TRIBUTE TO CEYLON, 1947.
PRIME MINISTER MUHAMRD AMIN DIDI to the right.
PHOTO. 1947. VILGON Coll.

As the natives say we shall not be able to mark in any of the Atolls during the S.W. monsoon but this remains to be proved.

4.) Prior to our leaving this for COLOMBO I shall send the "MALDIVA" survey boat to MALE. Have here hauled up and thatched over till our return from CEYLON in May.

5.) I have not forwarded a copy of our work and observations as they are in such an unfinished state, but shall be able to do it on our arrival at CEYLON.

6.) I am sorry to state for want of supplies, for none of any kind are to be obtained on these Islands. The crews of the surveying vessels have suffered much in health from poor diet. No fresh meat, vegetables or fish are to be obtained, the former, fresh meat, we might do without if fish could be substituted. These Islands and seas afford no fish such as in other places, the crews of vessels are able to catch to remedy this. I tried to buy fish from the natives. Bonito the only fish they catch has failed them this year therefore they have none.

7.) The "ROYAL TIGER" and "MALDIVA" have had four deaths and others very sick according to enclosed report of the surgeon I am therefore induced to send the "ROYAL TIGER" to COCHIN for supplies and to restore the health of her crew. I expect she will not be absent from the surveying more than twenty-five days.

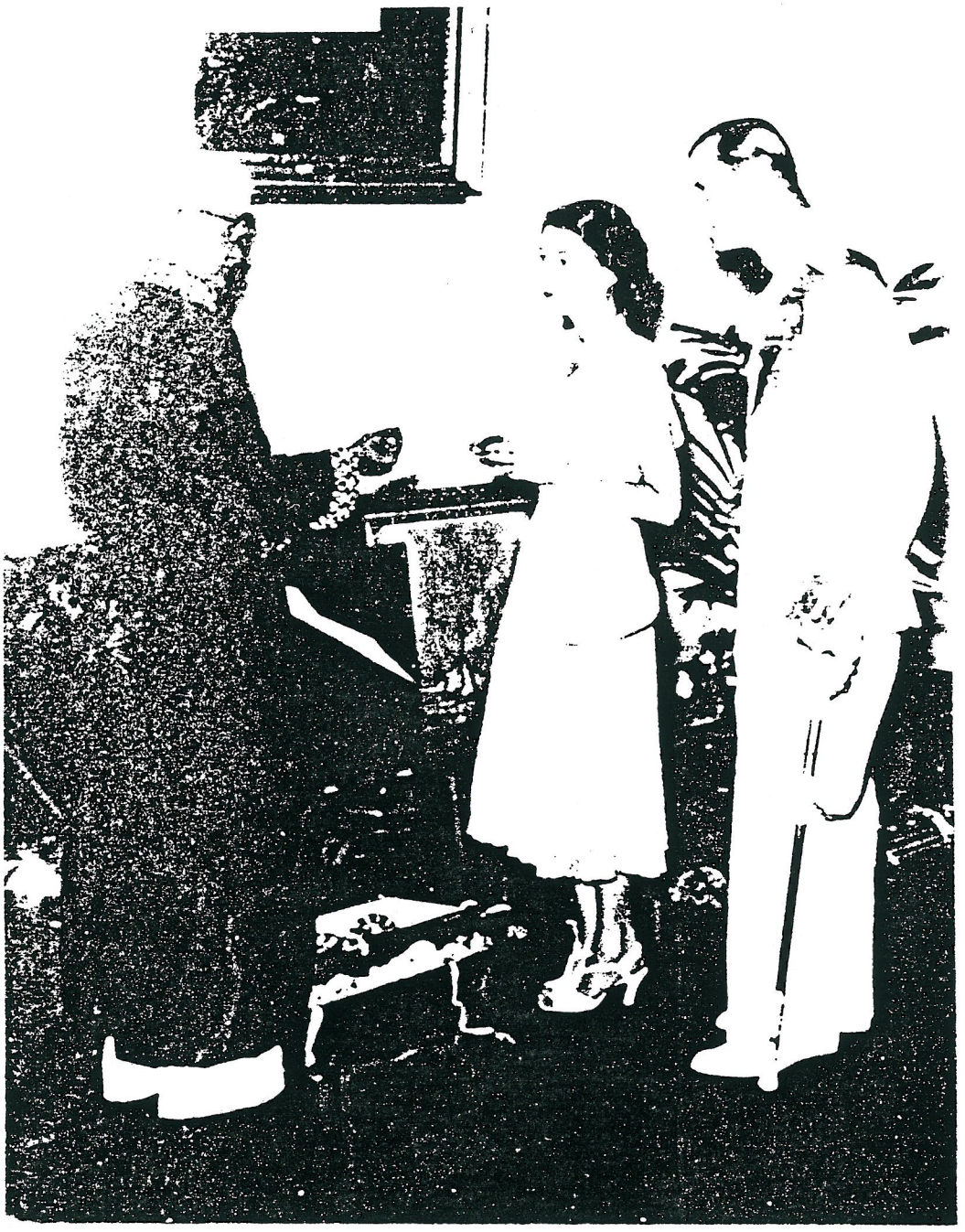
8.) The "ROYAL TIGER" will on her return be able to replenish our stock of provisions and enable us to continue our survey so long as the weather admits. I hope till the 1st of April. The "BENARES" native crew, though not altogether healthy, I hope with care still be able to performe their duties but all they have to feed on is rice and ghée. The dholl on board having all become decayed and condemned by a committee of survey, our biscuit has kept good and wholesome.

9.) It is necessary to bring to your notice that if the "BENARES" remain at CEYLON according to your orders, till I get your answers to my letters from thence. Her stay there will be at least 45 days, and that too at the commencement of the S.W. monsoon in an open roadstead. POINT de GALLE has also its disadvantages, the great difficulty and risk in coming out of that harbour against the heavy S.W.-erly swell and the winds blowing direct in.

Probably you may think it better, our not waiting your answer to my letters after forwarding them and my work from COLOMBO, but filling up our provisions etc. Start again to the Maldives about the 1st of May, we shall then be able to remain out till the end of August when I recommend the vessels being allowed to proceed to Bombay for the relief of the native crew.

ROBERT MORESBY

Commander H. C. Surveying Ship "BENARES".
COLOMBO 7 Jan. 1835. ***



QUEEN ELISABETH first VISIT to the MALDIVES.
PHOTO. VILGON Coll.

MORESBY's LETTER No. 3. Pages 242-245.

Letter from Commander ROBERT MORESBY to
the Superintendent CHARLES MALCOLM. COCHIN 26th February 1835.

I have the honouer to report my arrival at this port and am sorry to state that since my last letter to you in Jan. we have lost 8 of our native crew from sickness, in addition to the the 4 I formerly reported. Sickness still increasing on board to an alarming extent amounting at one time to 37 including officers. I deemed it adviseable to call a committee with the Surgeon on the state of the sick, a copy of their report I enclose, at which time I thought it adviseable to return to the coast of India for the benefit of our health.

Leaving Lieutenant POWELL to proceed on with the survey till our return. The surgeons report as to the nature and extent of the sickness on board is also enclosed. Many of those who have suffered and are suffering from severe illness, will not be able to accompany us again to the Islands. By leaving them at the hospital at COCHIN they will have a better chance and opportunity of returning to their families at BOMBAY that if left at COLOMBO. This causes and the facility of reaching COCHIN sooner than COLOMBO, has induced me to touch here were I shall remain a short time, and then proceed to COLOMBO to receive your letters and what your answer to this.

Every means with our power has been tried to prevent and avert decease but to no purpose nor can we ascertain the cause, unless it be something peculiar in the climate of these Islands, of such sudden and violent attacks of sickness, more particularly on the bowels, acting like violent mineral poisons on the bodies. We have not had a single case of complete recovery as yet those in appearent health shew a general lossitude and debility, very uncommon in such a delightful climate as we have experienced.

I have therefore on consulting the surgeon issued extra permissions to the native crew as well as small portion of liquor. It is to he regretted we were obliged to quit our duties on the survey as the great progress we latterly made and all the vessels being equipped with provisions to the middle or end of April next led me to anticipate and not without good reason we should, both vessels working together, have completed survey as far as 'MALE Atoll', at present we have finished MILLA DOU MADON Atoll [MILADHUNMADULU] and the two Northern Atolls, except a few days work left undone by Lieutenant POWELL, which he is now about.

The "ROYAL TIGER's" visit to India has been attended with the greatest benifit to her crew who were when we left the Islands in robust health a copy of the orders I left with Lieutenant POWELL I enclose.



FASE OF BUDDHA. GAN / GAMU ISLAND.
HADHDHUNMATHI / LAAMU ATOLL.
PHOTO 1922. BELL. VILGON Coll.

Respecting our movements for the future it is my opinion it will be imprudent provisioning the vessel for more than 4 months, experience having tanght us, provisions will not keep long, from the humid state of the atmosphere during the South-West-monsoon, and with your permission returning to BOMBAY when our provisions are out or should sickness oblige us to quit the Islands, the ports on the coast of CEYLON not being in any way adopted for a rendezvous during this season.

I have every reason to suppose I shall not be able to replace the crew that are short of complement, the natives of the place from experience having a great dread of the mortality at the MALDIVE Islands, the services of Lieutenants YOUNG and LYNCH will not be available for some time. The former officer has applied through me to remain at MALE or "KINGS ISLAND" should "BENARES" return to India again his services may, or may not be required on board, all depends upon circumstances.

I have the honour to forward a discription of MILLA DOU MADON Atoll. Ditto by Lieutenant ROBINSON account of a Coal Depot. Remarks made in ZILLA DOU MATIS ATOL by Lieutenant POWELL. Abstract for Pay and surveying allowance for January 1835 with, Muster Roll, Aaccount Current with corresponding Noucher state and condition Sich Report. Remark by Dr. CAMPBELL on the sickness experienced and are account of "Tide Current Range of Thermometer &co" a copy of our Chart being nearly completed I shall forward it by the first opportunity.

I have the honour to be ROBERT MORESBY. Commander. ***

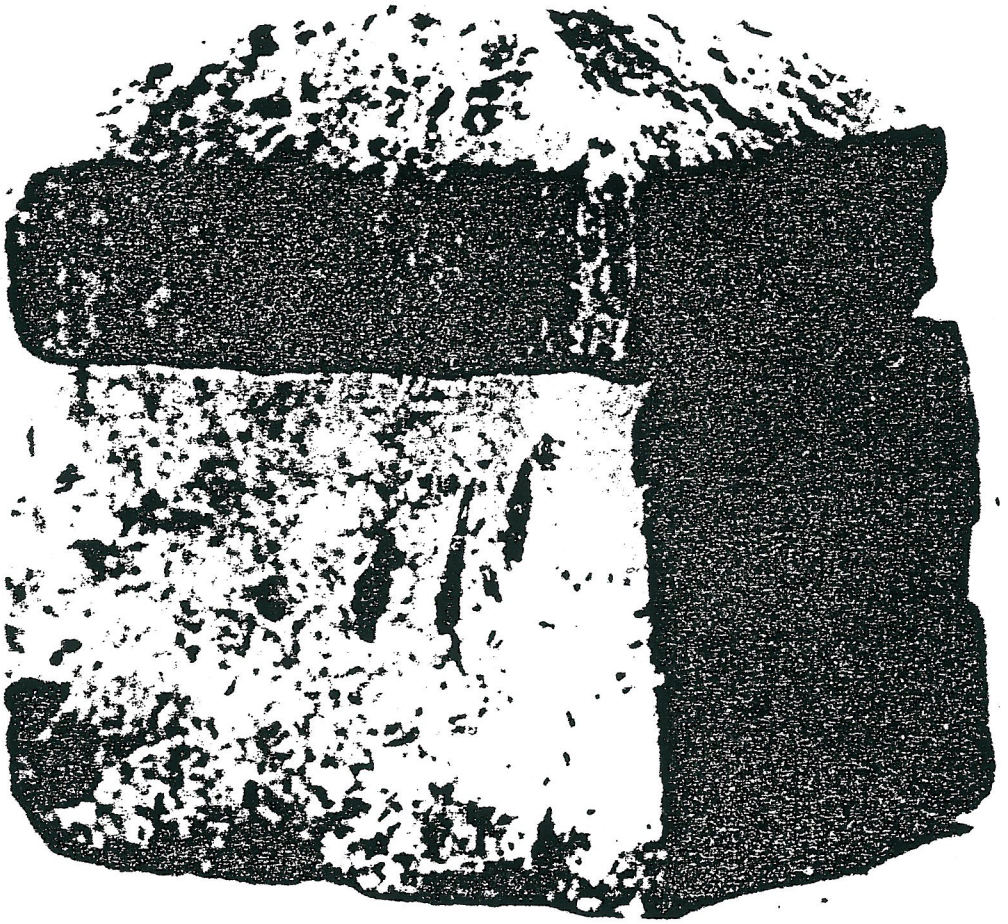
MORESBY's LETTER No. 4. Page 257-258.

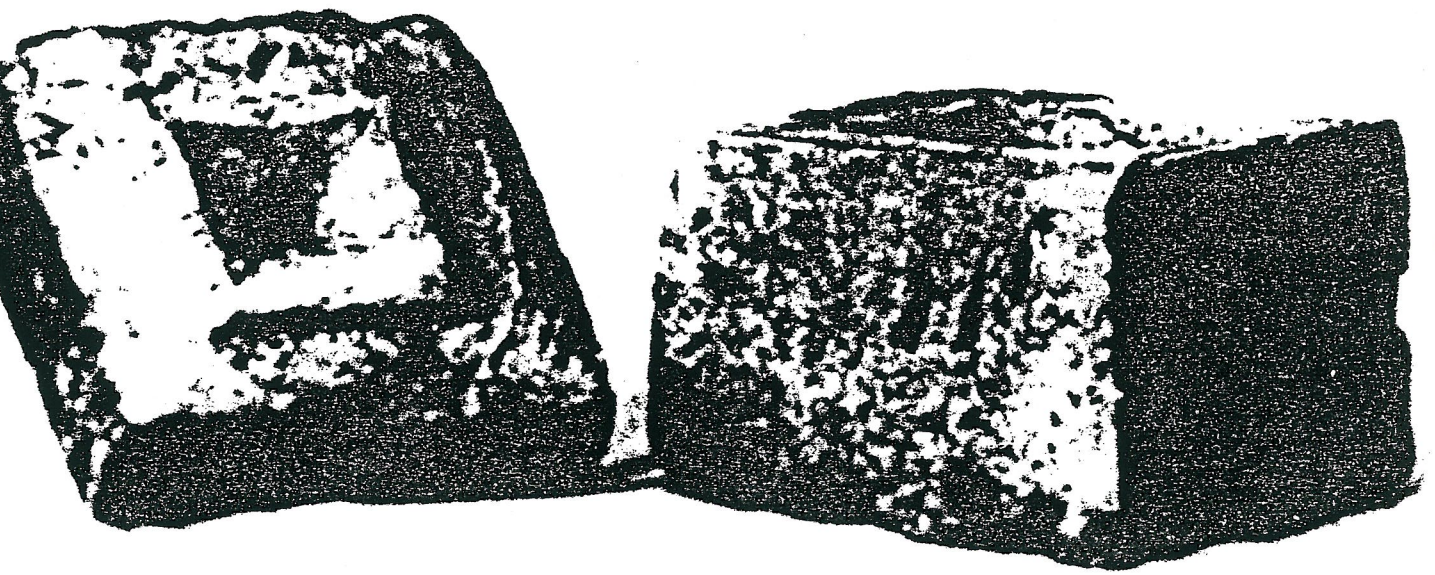
Letter from Commander ROBERT MORESBY to
the Superintendent CHARLES MALCOLM. COCHIN 20th April 1835.

Having completed our crew sufficiently to enable us to return to the MALDIVA Islands and continue the survey the vessel being furnished with provision to the end of July I shall quit this port tomorrow.

1. Our sick at the hospital, part of our former crew, will return to Bombay in a large commodious and decked Pattamar under charge of Mr. WHITBURN, Midshipman, accompanied by the Compounder or Medical Assistant of the "BENARES". Mr. WHITBURN has been furnished with instructions how to act, as a also with, for any small extra expences that may be required during their passage up the coast.

2. I have agreed with the owner of the Pattamar to convey our sick to BOMBAY at the rate of 13 Rupees for one man and also 50 Rupees for the





KARANDUVA. GAN / GAMU ISLAND.
HADHDHUNMATHI / LAAMU ATOLL.
PHOTO. 1922. BELL. VILGON Coll.

Officer in charge of them. The owner of the boat supplying them with wood and water.

We have been trying all in our power to engage a small vessel or boat to convey live stock &ca, to the MALDIVE Islands, we have only partially succeeded on account of the excilutant demands. Two small trading brigs about to sail, the owner of one of them has agreed to take 10 head of cattle and a few other sundry supplies on the payment of 100 Rupees, but the other would take no supplies.

3. In the "BENARES" we have 10 head of cattle as also for the officers who remain at the Islands, fruit-plants and seed of vegetables together with garden tools &co including all we think may be of use. Four volunteers, natives of COCHIN, have been embested to remain with and assist the officer on the Islands. Two of the men are hired at 10 Rupees per month each, two at 5 per month each.

4. I have the honour to forward a Chart of the "Roads and Anchors to the Rion of COCHIN", this survey has been completed by Lieut. ROBINSON, Mess. C. D. CAMPBELL, CHRISTOPHER and RIDDELL, during their leisure hours.

5. I have sent to CEYLON for the guidance of Lieutenant POWELL, should he be there, a copy of all your orders and instruction to me as well as copies of all my letters to you this will enable him to act for the best is circumstance may require.

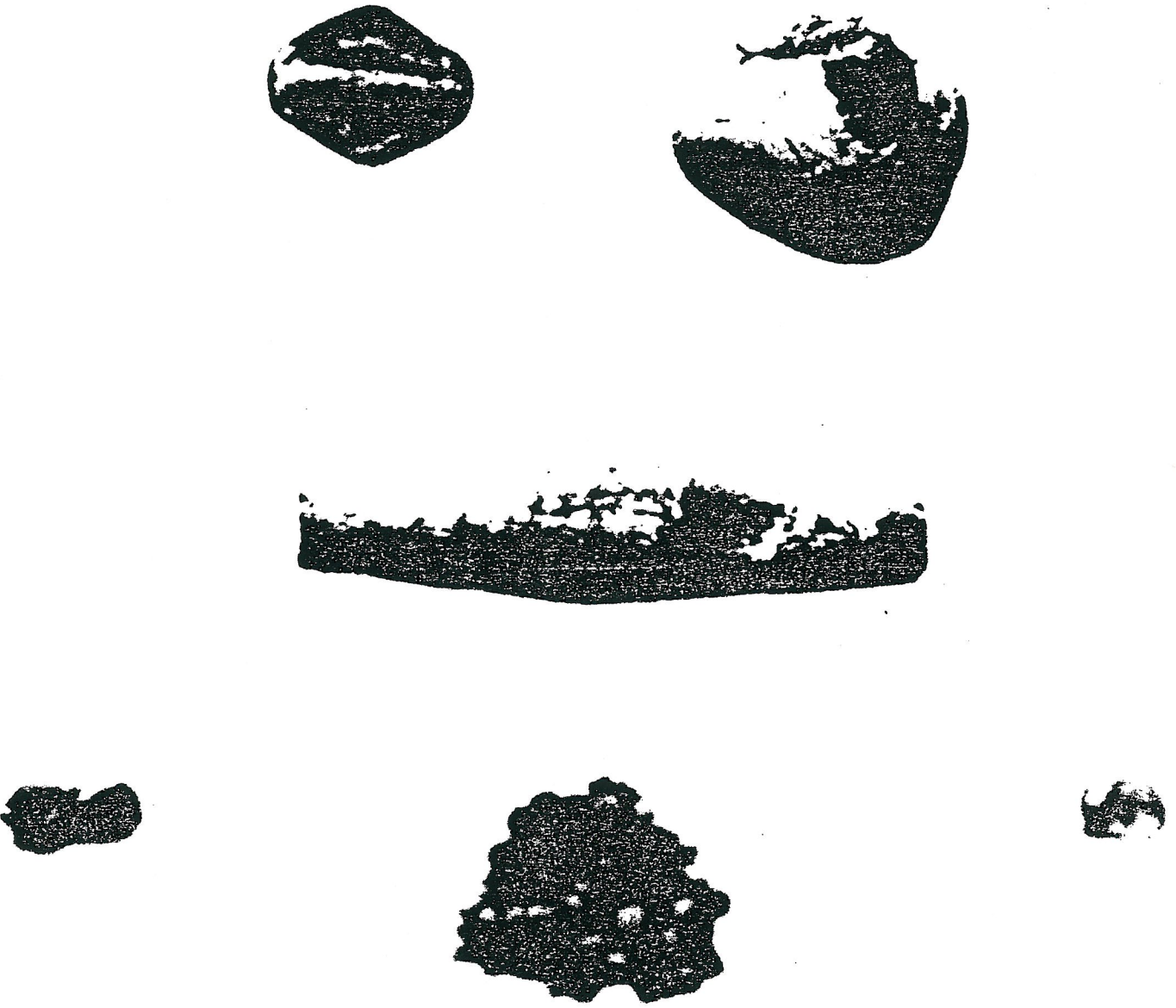
Commander ROBERT MORESBY. ***

MORESBY's LETTER No. 5. Page 261-262.

Extract of a Letter from Commander ROBERT MORESBY to
the Superintendent CHARLES MALCOLM. PADOU PHOOLO Atoll 7th May 1835.

The native crew of the "ROYAL TIGER" enjoyed good health till the middle of April last at which time they had rain. Since then they have been unhealthy, but have lost none by death from sickness. I enclose Lieutenant POWELL's report as also that of Assistant Surgeon CAMPBELL, and on duty considering the importance of this survey.

The general spirit of your instructions as well as the health of individuals employed, I have decided on sending the Tenders to BOMBAY under charge of Lieutenant POWELL, remaining myself to complete what I can while the weather permits.



BEADS. GAN / GAMU. ADDU / SEENU ATOLL.
MUNDU / MUNDOO ISLAND. HADHDHUNMTHI / LAAMU ATOLL.
PHOTO 1922. BELL. VILGON Coll.

The whole of the "ROYAL TIGER's" crew being either actually very sick or much debilitated, I have lent to her 6 Laescars from the "BENARES". She has always had on the survey one European seaman, and one midshipman extra, this I found requesite to forward the duties.

There still remain in the "ROYAL TIGER", when Lieutenant YOUNG and Mr. CHRISTOPHER quit us to reside at MALE, we shall only have in the "BENARES", Lieutenant Robinson, Ackting Lieutenant LYNCH, Mr. CAMPBELL Mate, and Mr. BARKER Midshipman. I shall therefore keep Lieutenant YOUNG and Mr. CHROSTOPHER untill I can space them from the duties of survey.

I have the honour to be &co.
ROBERT MORESBY Commander. ***

MORESBY's LETTER No. 6. Page 265-268.

Letter from Commander ROBERT MORESBY to
the Superintendent CHARLES MALCOLM. [IN INDIA] 5th July 1835.

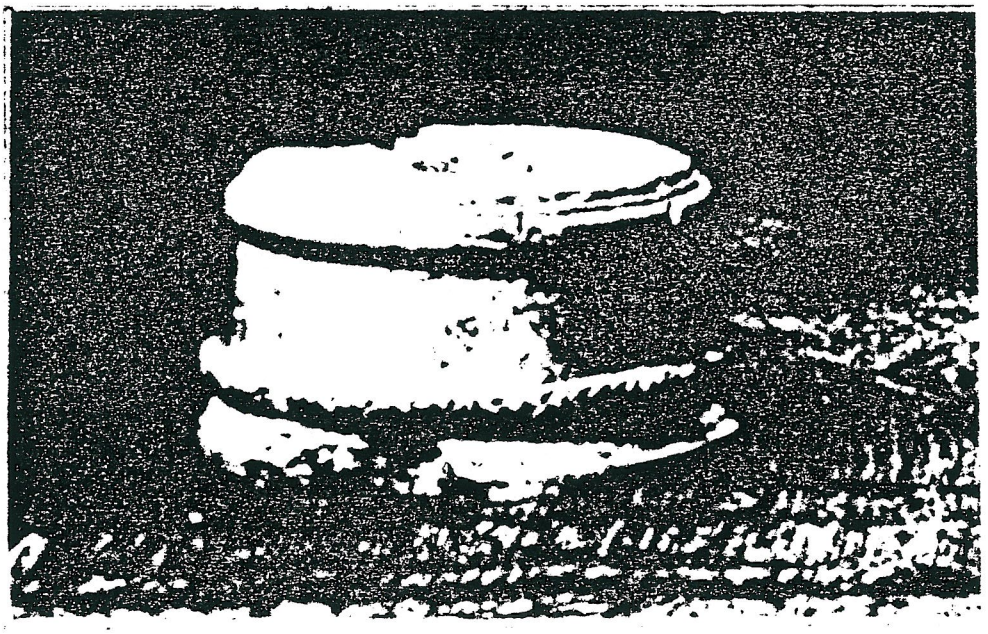
Sir. I have the hounor to report our arrival and have much pleasure in informing you that we have completed the survey of the MALDIVE Islands as far to the South as MALE or "KINGS ISLAND", as will be seen by the chart I forward, comprising PODY PHOLLO Atoll [FADIFFOLU], MALE Atoll, the Eastern boundary of the CARDIVA Channel including the Islands of CARDIBA [KARDIVA] and GAFOR [GAAFARU].

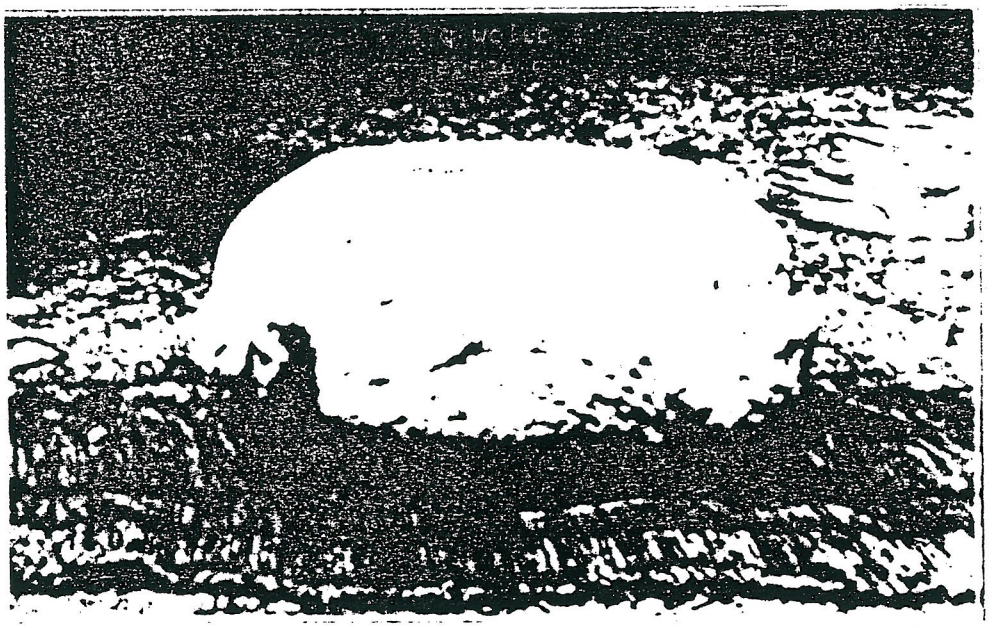
While finishing MALE Atoll, on the 22nd of May the South-Westmonsoon set in with great violence, while we were at an anchor in the centre of the Atoll on a shoul patch, it was with difficulty, the vessel could hold on, with 3 anchors down, and had it continued to blow with such violence, nothing cold have saved the vessel. The weather in a few days moderated, which enabled us with perseverance to complete our work, when I arrived at MALE or "KINGS ISLAND.

Finding it quite impossible to survey any longer at this season of the year among these Islands, I made arrangements according to your orders with the SOOLTAN's of MALE to receive Lieutenant YOUNG and Mr. CHRISTOPHER Midshipman, with 4 volunteer attendants, natives of COCHIN, as temporary residents to which he made no objection, though it was with fear and evident suspicion he granted this permission.

A copy of my orders to those officers, who I left at MALE, I forward herewith.

I have to observe that the authorities at "KINGS ISLAND", showed us much more attention than formerly, and though still not void of fear, and





ASANA & INDRAKILA SOCKET. GAN / GAMU ISLAND.
HADHDHUNMATHT / LAAMU ATOLL.
PHOTO 1922. BELL. VILGON Coll.

great suspicions of our motives in surveying these Islands, we have so far gained their good will, that all the Islanders who have visited Male time spoken to the authorities there as a matter of surprize, we should have heated them with such kindness, and that in no one instance have they had one single cause of complaint against us at the numerous Islands we visited, they supplied us with wood, water some fowls and plantains as well as one bullock gratis, our own cattle brought here from COCHIN, were so poor and sickly as not to be eatable.

From the SULTAN I am entrusted with a letter to Government, as well as a SUADIVA-mat, and some small bundles of cocoanut sweet meat which I have the honour to forward.

I am happy to say we had no deaths amongst our crew by sickness. Some of our old hands had a repetition of the disease peculiar to the Islands, as well as a case or two among the new ones, and though comparitively slight to the attacks of sickness as formerly experienced still symptoms of its increase began to manifest itself among the crew about the period we left. The Islanders have suffered severely this season from sickness and at one small Island close to "KINGS ISLAND" the adult inhabitants were entirely swept off amounting to 80 or 100 people.

Several small trading brigs from INDIA who yearly visit "KINGS ISLAND", have also suffered from sickness. Three of them had been obliged to return to India, after the loss of several of their crew, and others so sick they sold their cargoes below prime cost, and were obliged to hire the natives from the Islands to assist them to weigh their anchors.
I forward our surgeons account of his further inquiries respecting the diseases of these Islands.

It was my intention to have visited the Southern Atolls, or quitting MALE of "KINGS ISLAND", but was prevented nearing them by the strong currents from the Westward setting us some days as much as 60 miles to the Eastward. We were therefore obliged to give up the hopes of sighting them, and fixing their longitude.

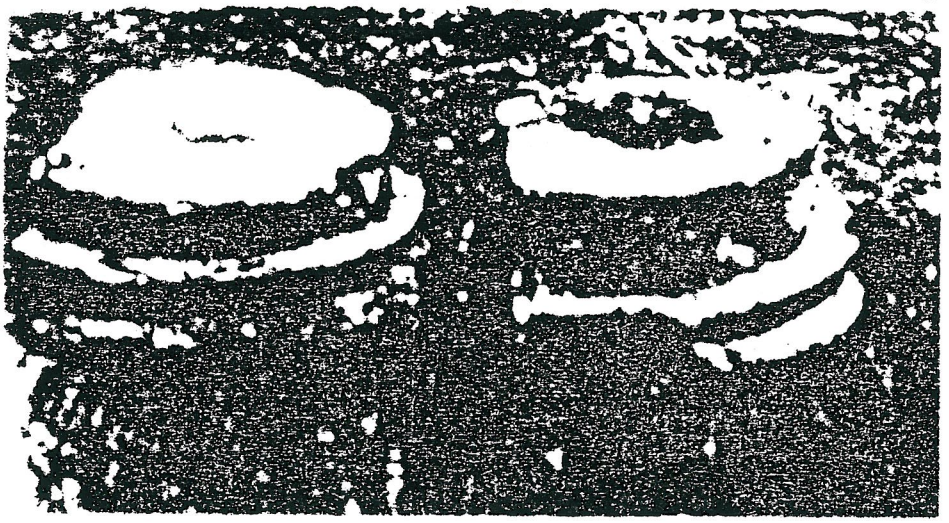
From the vicinity of Southern MALDEEVA Atoll, we steered so as to make the SPEAKERS Bank but on crossing the EQUATOR the wind wered so much to the South-East we could not reach the Bank. I therefore slussed our course to the Westward, so as to reach INDIA by the Southern route, to the Northeward of the CHAGOS Islands.

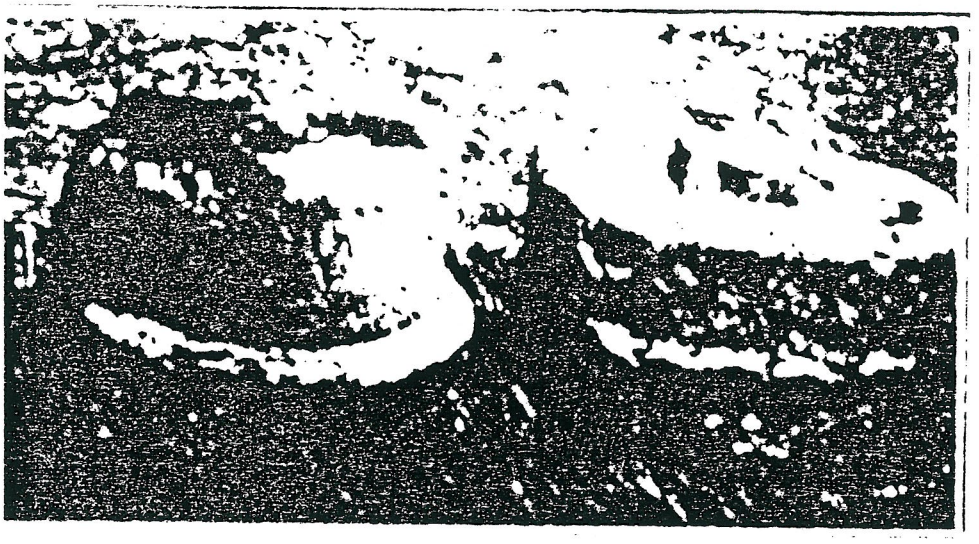
I have to request as we have not a detachmernt of Sepoys on board, you direct a new one to be supplied us.

I have the honour to forward herewith our Muster Book up to the 30th of April last, with super-numerary Lascars list, pay and surveying allowance abstracts, with their respective muster rolls for May and June 1835, also account currents for the same months with corresponding vouchers, punishment report, state and condition and sick report.

I have the honour to be &co.

ROBERT MORESBY Commander. ***





PILLAR CAPITALS. GAN / GAMU ISLAND.
HADHDHUMATHI / LAAMU ATOLL.
PHOTO 1922. BELL. VILGON Coll.

MORESBY's LETTER No. 6. Pages 269-270.

Letter from Commander Robert Moresby
to Superintendent CHARLES MALCHOM, 9th July 1835, [INDIA]

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipts of your assistant's letter respecting the continuation of the survey of the MALDEEVE Islands and in reply beg to state, I find no reason to, from the experience we have gained, to alter our original plan, the one we have lately adopted, in surveying the Islands that is to finish the MALDIVE Islands first, returning to INDIA as circumstances may require for provisions etz.

And by the end of the next fair season in May 1836 hope to have completed to the 45° North Latitude Atoll ADUMATHIS [HADHDHUNMATHI], when I recommend the vessels returning to the presidency during the South-Westerly monsoon leaving our surveyboats at the Islands and in October 1836 again quitting this, finishing the whole of the MALDIVE Islands, from thence to the coast of INDIA for provisions returning to the CHAGOOS, about January 1837, probably by May that year, the whole of the CHAGOOS and MALDIVE Islands will be completed.

I also recommend another decked boat being built simular to the "MALDIVA" and attend the "BENARES", for which the "MALDIVA" was originally intended but by detaching her with the "ROYAL TIGER" on separate duty, double work has been done, this left "BENARES" with only her small boats, with the exception the "LAUNCH", are from the nature of the survey inadequate to take deep soundings or to be sent far from the ship in case of an accident from winds or currents in beeing driven out to sea, the small additional expense a boat of this kind would incur in my opinion from experience will be more than balanced by the speedy conclusion of the survey.

I also strongly recommend an alteration in the establishment of the seamen in the survey vessels, by reducing the number of Natives and adding more Europeans, experience having proved, the inefficiency of the Natives on this peculiar survey, and their total prestration of strength and energy from attack of the diseases of the climate, which the medical men have pronounced has far less influence on Europeans than Natives the accompanying scale shows the alterations proposed.

I have the honour to be &ca

ROBERT MORESBY, Commanding Surveyor. ***



ANCIENT CHINA JAR. GAN / GAMU ISLAND.
HADHDHUNMATHI / LAAMU ATOLL. left.
PHOTO 1922. BELL. VILGON Coll.

MORESBY's LETTER No. 7. Pages 277-278.

Letter from Commander ROBERT MOERSBY H.C.S. "BENARES" to
Superintendent CHARLES MALCOM. 22nd Sept. 1835. [INDIA]

Sir, I have the honour to suggest that I may be allowed to dispatch Lieutenant POWELL with the Tenders "ROYAL TIGER", and "MALDIVA", on the 1st October, to the MALDIVE Islands, in prosecution of the survey, and that Lieutenant POWELL on his way to the Island touch on the MALABAR Coast, for the purpose of purchasing live stock, including as many heads of cattle he can carry, to be landed at MALE and forwarded from thence to the Southern Atoll by the Natives. For the use of the surveying vessels it will be necessary to provide this officer with 500 Rupees for these and other expenses.

From MALE, having left the "MALDIVA" there, Lieutenant POWELL might proceede direct to POINTE de GALLE and pick up the chronometer at that place returning to MALE as soon as possible, should the Westerly wind be over by the time Lieutenant POWELL reaches MALE on his first visit there, it may be advisable the survey be not detained, but that he immediately commences his work without going to POINTE de GALLE, as it is of little importance in my opinion, his visiting POINTE de GALLE, as the chronometers he may have, are not, until proved, to be relied on for exact measurements, however every thing must depend on the winds and weather, Lieutenant POWELL may meet with on his arrival at MALE. I therefore suggest he be left to his own judgement.

I have the honour to be &et
ROBERT MORESBY. Commander. ***

MORESBY's LETTER No. 8. Pages 279-281.

Letter from Commander ROBERT MORESBY, H.C.Surveying Ship
"BENARES" to Superintendent CHARLES MALCOM. BOMBAY 6th October 1835.

I have the honour acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd (Oct.) relative to our operations in continuation of the survey of the MALDIVE Islands.

I propose sailing from this on Thuesday next, every thing being ready on board, with the execption of being short of Lascars compliment 11 men, which I hope to get tomorrow, understanding the Pay Master, will not be



POST HEADS. GAN / GAMU ISLAND.
HADHDHUNMATHI / LAAMU ATOLL.
PHOTO 1922. BELL. VILGON Coll.

able to pay the vessel before Thursday, it will be perhaps necessary to wait till Friday next.

From BOMBAY I propose proceeding to MANGALORE to measure the Longitude, from thence to the Island of UNDERROOT, one of the LACADIVES, for the same purpose as also to ascertain the dip of the magnetic needle, from UNDERROOT I will proceed to the Northern MALDIVE Islands, there again measure the Longitude, as formerly done, and from whence we first commenced our survey. From the Northern group of Islands I will proceed either through the whole groups of Islands direct to MALE, or outside of them as circumstances may require.

On our arrival at MALE, I shall immediately commence our survey, in the boats, while I remain with the vessel at "KINGS ISLAND", setting my communications with the SULTAN, which I hope will not keep me long, and the boats will only be 10 or 12 miles from the ship, finishing the continuation of MALE Atoll to the Southward.

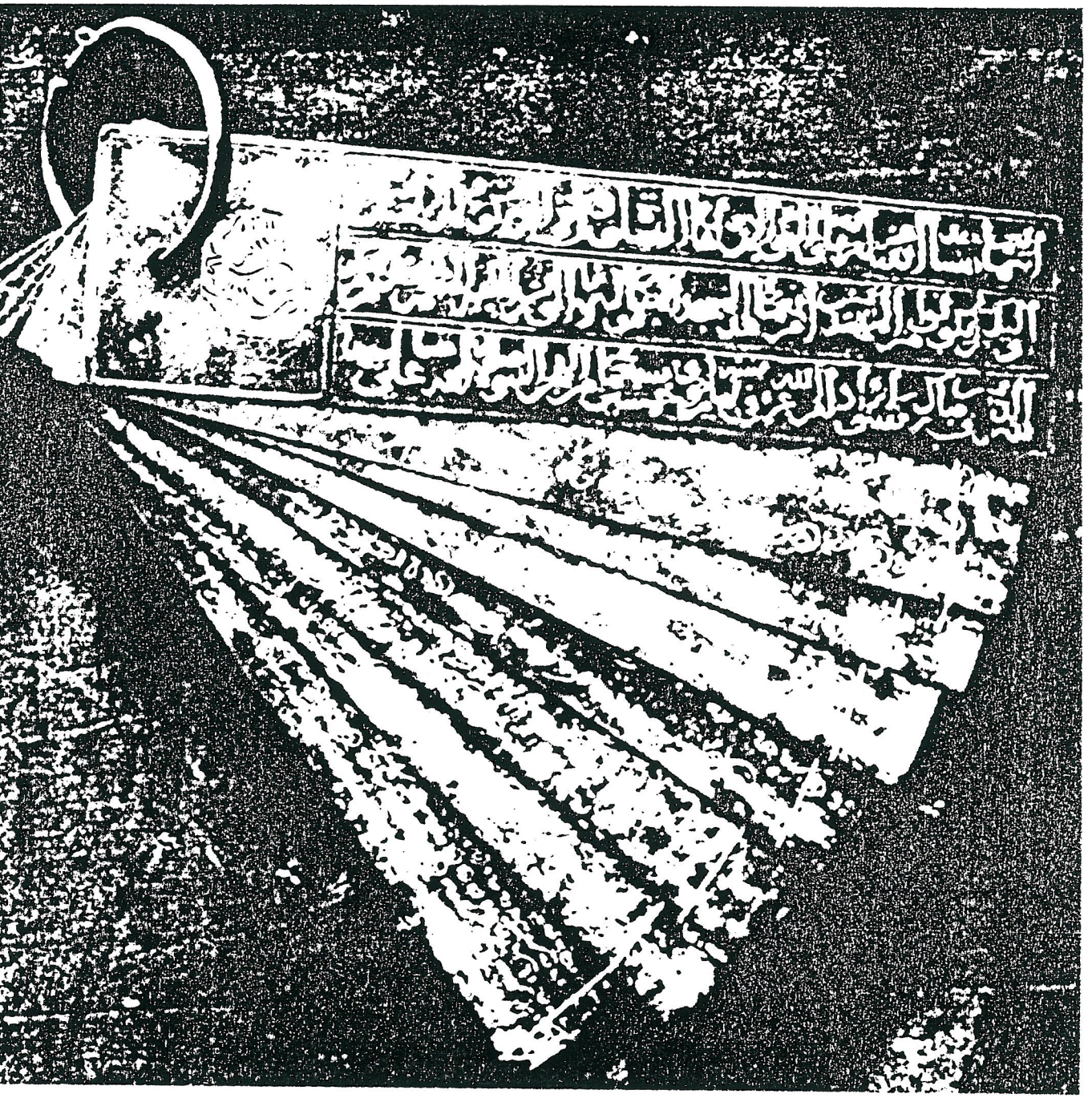
After remaining at the MALDIVE Islands about 2 Months on the 1st of Jan. I propose proceeding with "BENARES" to COCHIN where I expect to arrive about the 15th of Jan. 1836, having there about 15 days provisions on board at COCHIN, I propose taking in 4 Months more provision up to the end of May, and again return to the MALDIVE Islands.

Remaining there part of February, all March, and part of April, towards the later end of April, when the North-West and Westerly winds begin to set in, then return to BOMBAY, in company with the "ROYAL TIGER", leaving the tenders without their crews, at one of the Southern Atolls, under charge of the Natives, with whom I am confident they will be quite safe, more especially as the SULTAN, will issue the necessary orders to that effect. As the "ROYAL TIGER" will not perhaps commence her survey so soon as the "BENARES", her return to the MALABAR Coast may be proportionably later, but her return to BOMBAY ought to be with the "BENARES".

As the "BENARES" has not salt-meat enough for herself, and the "ROYAL TIGER" for eight months, we ought to have four thousand two hundred Lbs. or casks equal to that quantity sent to COCHIN by the 15th of Jan. as also seven thousand Lbs. of bisquit as the bisquit obtained at CHOCHIN is of such inferior quality it will not keep six weeks and is very expensive, should the present contractor for bisquit not be able to supply the bisquit that will keep 4 or 5 months Mr. LEGATT, the baker, will on requisition furnish the quantity on the same terms he has supplied our flour warranted to keep eight months.

On the "ROYAL TIGER" joining us I shall immediately send her and the "MALDIVA" to complement the Western entrance of the CARDIVA Channel situated between the GOIDOO Island [GOUDU Atoll], I believe since named HORSBURGH Atoll, and the Island of TODU which is situated off the North end of ARI Atoll which Atoll Lieutenant POWELL must afterwards complete.

I have the honour to be &co ROBERT MORESBY. Commander. ***



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BODUGALU MISKIT. MALE.
PHOTO. 1922. BELL. VILGON Coll.

MORESBY's LETTER No. 9. Pages 290-295.

Letter from Commander ROBERT MORESBY, H.C.Surveying Ship "BENARES" to the Superintendent CHARLES MALCOM.
PHALEEDOO Atoll 24th December 1835.

I have the honour to report proceedings of the surveying vessels under my command since my communication to you from MANGALORE in October last.

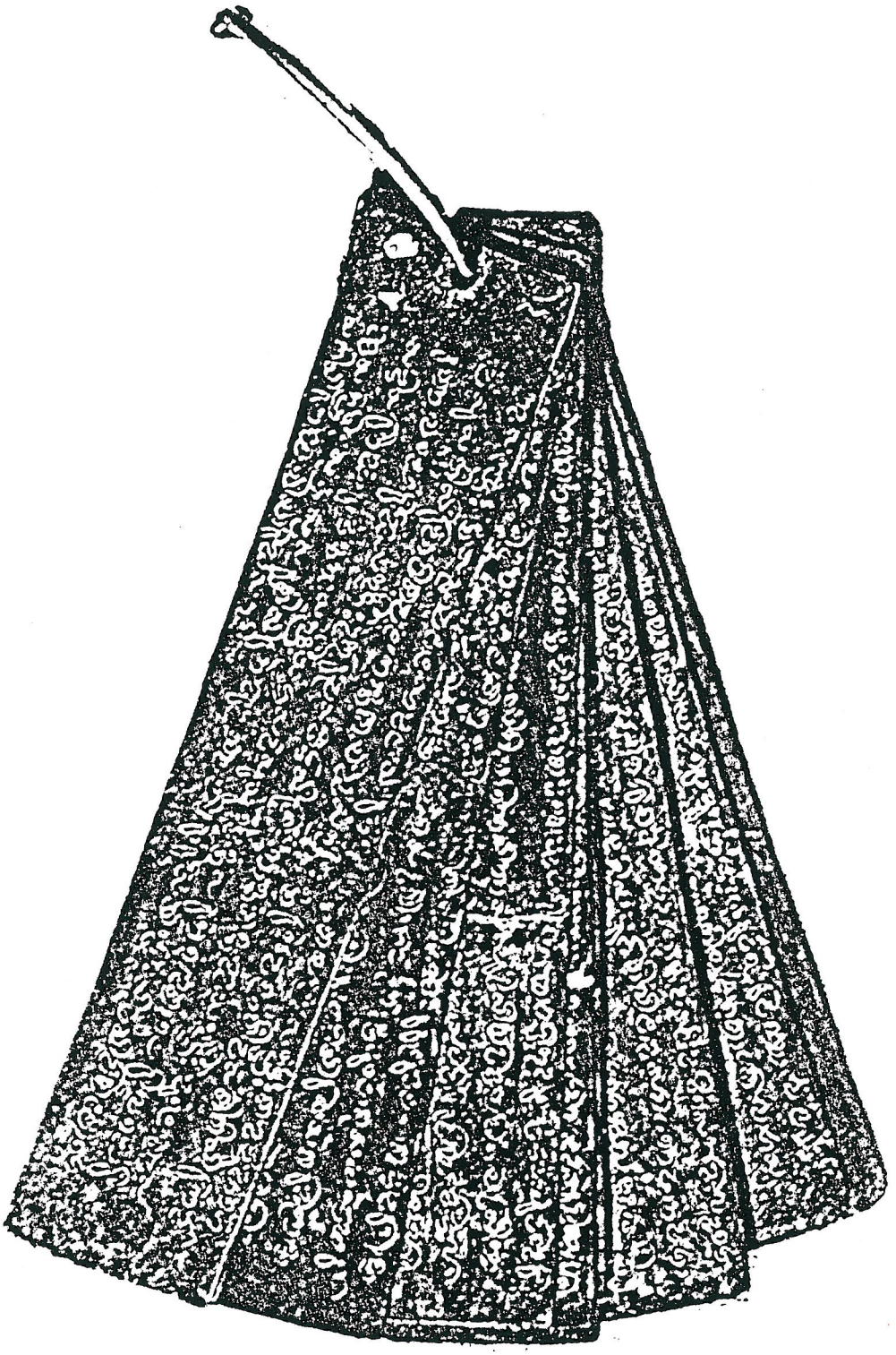
We left MANGALORE on the 30th of October with variable winds, and squally weather, we reached UNDERROOT Island, one of the Lacadives, on the 2nd of November, here we were obliged to remain two days on account of the weather, before I could obtain observations, which I am happy to say correspond with my former ones. From UNDERROOT we made the head of the MALDIVE Island, on the 6th of November, which I make in the same Longitude as before, with light airs and calms I demmed it most prudent to proceed to the "KINGS ISLAND" through the Atolls, avoiding the risk of drifting about these dangerous reefs and islands in calms and strong current.

On the 13th of November we reached MALE, and having delivered the Government letters and presents to the SULTAN and HAMED DEEDEE, I immediately commenced the survey by sending Mr. JONES mate and Mr. McKENZIE midshipman in the "MALDIVA" tender to complete the Western entrance of the CARDIVA Channel. I supplied the tender with one of our best chronometers, McCABE No.174. Mr. JONES finished this channel in 12 days, in a very satisfactory manner and returned to the "BENARES" at MALE.

This ship's boats in the mean time were working in the next Atoll, South of MALE, visiting the ship every five or six days, after two weeks fog and calms, and violent squalls of rain, nothing satisfactory had been done, and the men and officers, much worn from exposure, many of them troubled with slight fevers, and violent colds, the sun being intensely hot in the calms between the squalls, and our boats affording but little shelter at night from the rain.

On the 22nd of November Lieutenant POWELL in the "ROYAL TIGER" returned from GALLE, three days afterwards the weather appearing more settled, with thw winds from the North-East. I dispatched Lieutenant POWELL with the "ROYAL TIGER" and "MALDIVE" tenders, to complete the survey of ARI Atoll, proceeding myself to the next Atoll South of MALE, and which is called a part of MALE Atoll, but has no connection with it, being separated with a deep channels.

This Atoll is about 50 Miles in circumference, has few Islands, few inhabitants, full of reefs, and coral knolls, and in the Islands do not afford any drinkable fresh water. The Natives obtaining a scanty supply by catching rain-water from the trees.



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NATIONAL CENTRE for LINGUISTIC
and HISTORICAL RESEARCH, ca. 1100 A.D.
PHOTO, 1980, MALE, VILGON Coll.

On the 29th of November the "CARDIVA" tender, Lieutenant LYNCH, joined us, having been 12 days on his voyage from BOMBAY, experiencing constant rain, and squalls with variable light winds. At MALE I left a letter for Lieutenant LYNCH, which enabled him to open my letters and to deliver to the SULTAN the enclosures respecting a free trade between INDIA and the MALDIVE Islands.

I frequently mentioned to the his ministers how desirable it was to have some definite agreement in writing, as to what duties, on different goods English traders from BOMBAY, would be expected to pay. They appeared not to understand, they did not wish to trouble themselves about the matter, but go on as their forefathers had done ages past. They begged to assure me, that none of their vessels could go to BOMBAY, and that if other vessels brought rice and goods from INDIA, they could not sell them as their own boats and a few Native traders, brought annualy sufficient for the consumption of the Islands.

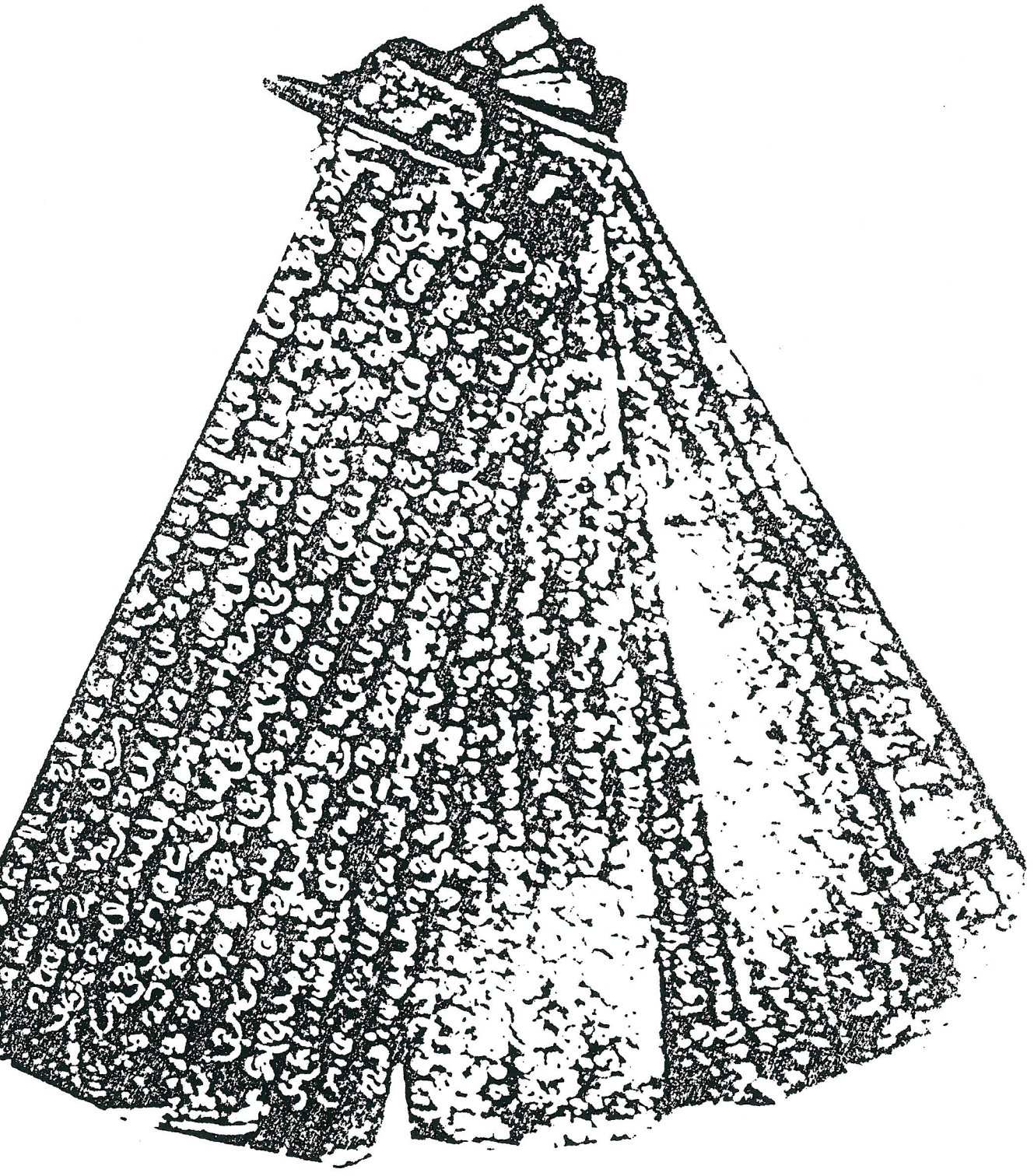
On further questioning and showing to HAMED DEEDEE, and the INDIGGERRI, the two most consequential men on the Island, the advantages a free trade would be to them. And pointed out the absurdity of the Government in preventing any trade in foreign vessels, to any other Islands than MALE, which was so far to the South and difficult to communicate with, from the coast of INDIA. Native vessels from INDIA were on this account detained from trading. But if the SULTAN would take off this restriction, which he would immediately do, if they advised him, numbers of vessels, would come to the Northern Islands for coir, and the duty could be paid there as well as at MALE.

This they seemed to object to, and it appeared to me, the more I tried to persuade them of the advantages, they would gain, the more they appeared to suspect our Government had some other motive. And these are the men who rule the council of the SULTAN, who is quite a young man and acts entirely by the advice.

HAMED DEEDEE afterwards honestly confessed to me, he understood perfectly well, what our Government wished respecting the trade, but says he: "What can I do, these people are so obstinate, and foolish, if I was to try and pursuade them to do what is right, I should have the ill will of the whole of the headmen."

Thus ended my communication respecting the trade, and as I have not been at MALE since I left, nor is it posible I can, before I return from COCHIN. This subject must remain for the present. I have to observe we found the Natives at MALE in a very unhealty state, fevers and violent cough. I have since heard they are dying twenty and thirty a day but this is doubtful.

Having completed the Atoll and lost sight of the "CARDIVA" Lieutenant LYNCH for several days, who I supposed had been drifted away by the currents in taking deep water soundings outside, I steered over to PHALEEDOO Atoll [FELIDHU], expecting to find the "CARDIVA" there, but she did not arrive till two days after. Lieutenant LYNCH found the currents so strong it was with dificulty he could keep his position and narrowly escaped being drifted away. He found it impossible to beat



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and HISTORICAL RESEARCH, ca, 1100 A.D.
PHOTO, 1980, MALE, VILGON Coll.

against a curent of 3 Miles per Hour. Consequently have not been able to take so many deep water soundings as I could have wished.

From the 6th to the end of December has been occupied in completing this Atoll PHALEEDOO. With much difficulty have we finished it, we have had so much squally and rainy weather. It has been impossible for days, together to send our boat out, the North-East monsoon did not fairly set in, till the middle of December, and even now, we have squally and rainy days.

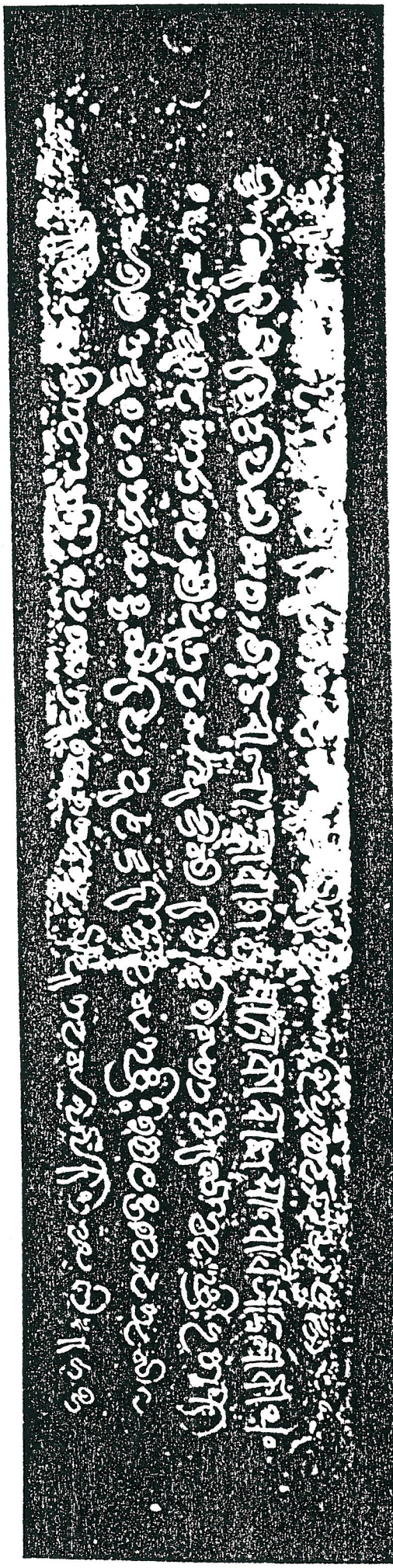
This Atoll is of a curious shape, and is of some extent, as will be seen by the chart, there are few Islands in it and none produce fresh water. I have not been able to fill up the deep water soundings outside this Atoll, on account of the strong currents from the East to the West and in the narrov channels between the outer reefs the currents from quite a shiece ["SHIECE" Correctly transcribed, but no meaning].

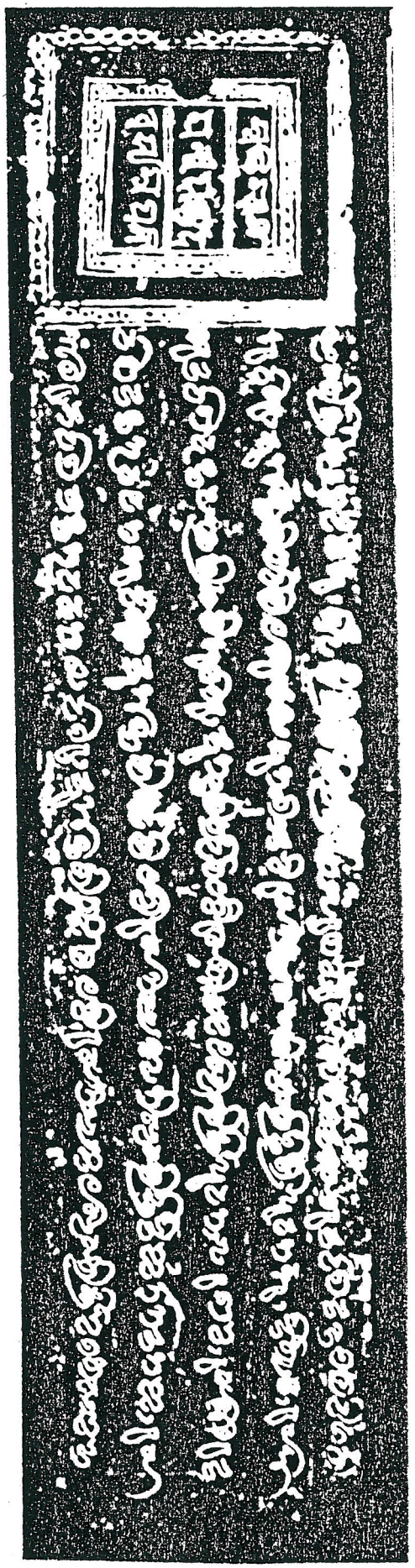
On the 20th of December the "MALDIVA" tender with Mr. BARKER in charge joined the "BENARES". They were in destress for provisions. The "ROYAL TIGER" Lieutenant POWELL having been drifted out to sea to the West by the currents. While surveying the North part of ARI Atoll, Mr. BARKER waited there the return of the "ROYAL TIGER", till he had only two days provisions left, when he found his way to the "BENARES". His report I forward for your information. The "ROYAL TIGER" has not yet been heard of. Should Mr. BARKER in the "MALDIVA" on his return to MALE, hear of Lieutenant POWELL, he will rejoin him, if not the "MALDIVA" will be hauled up at MALE, and her crew will proceed in the "CARDIVA", Lieutenant LYNCH, to COCHIN, where I expect she will be the 15th of January (1836) according to your orders.

As the Islands in the Atoll do not afford fresh water, the "BENARES" will be obliged to proceed to MOLOQUE Atoll [MINICOY Island] for this article, where the Natives say, the water though not good, is yet drinkable. It would be absurd our attempting to return to make against winds and currents, and the navigation so intricate. I shall therefore proceed to MOLOQUE Atoll, after I have dispatched the tenders "CARDIVA" and "MALDIVA" to MALE, from MOLOQUE after filling up our water and wood I shall leave for COCHIN, standing to the East, where I hope to be by the end of January. Our crew on the whole have been healthy, no deaths and only one case, the Syrang, of that peculiar desease which I [have described, L.Vilgon.], attacked our crew last season.

I have the honour to forward a Copy of our Work, done roughly and hastily, in hopes it may not be lost in case of an accident to the "BENARES". I also forward a Report of a committee respecting our flour and am sorry to inform you, one of our best chronometers, Mr. CABES No.174, stopped on the 15th. I shall send this watch to BOMBAY on our return to COCHIN, as also our chronometric measurments which have been very satisfactory, also duplicate Pay abstracts and Account currents.

ROBERT MORESBY. Commander.





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PALACE LOMAFANU, MALE, ca, 1100 A,D,
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MORESBY's LETTER No. 10. Pages 297-299.

Letter from Commander ROBERT MORESBY, Honourable Companys Surveying Ship "BENARES" to the Superintendent CHARLES MALCHOM, Indian Navy. POINT de GALLE the 20th January 1836.

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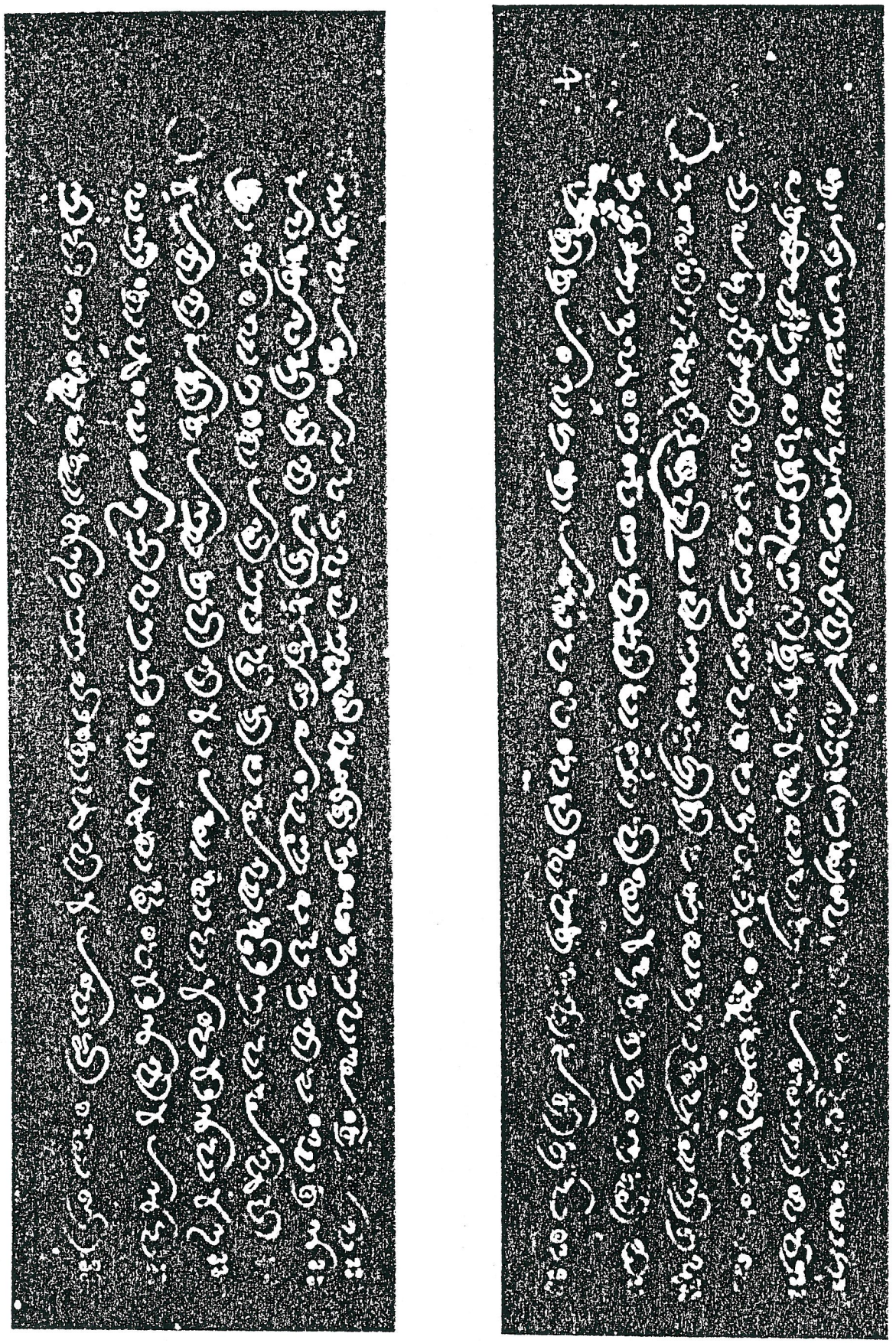
1. I have the honour to report the arrival of the "BENARES", at this port, on the 20th instant [Jan. 1836], having quitted the center of MOLOQUE Atoll [MINICOY], on the 4th we stood to the Eastward nine days, about 400 Miles to the East of GALLE, in Lat. 4° 30' North, there tacked to the West-North-West, and should have reached GALLE in 13 or 14 days, from the Islands, with strong Northernly winds, occasionally curents against us. But unfortunately a gale of wind, with constant heavy rain, set in from the North, which lasted 3 days, and blowing with such violence at times, we were drifted 165 Miles to the South-South-West, nothwithstanding all our exertions in carring sails.

I am sorry to say the old ship was very leaky, and the wear and tear, so great, it will take us a few days to put all to rights. Our crew have suffered in some respects from the constant heavy rain, and the lower deck, was so wet, from leaks, not a man had a dry bed, every rusty bolt, and nail, dripped with water. On the whole the vessel behaved uncommonly well, as a weatherly sea wessel.

2. I am now enabled to say, a vessel may from the Centre, or Southern Islands of the MALDIVA group, make a passage to CEYLON, against the North-East monsoon, in 12 or 20 days, by standing to the East, and eventually up the coast to BOMBAY, much quicker than proceeding to the West to the MALDIVA Group, should she unfortunately be near them on her passage to INDIA, during the strength of the North-East monsoon.

3. I an sorry to say a day or two after leaving the MALDIVA Islands, symptoms of the fatal disease Berreberry [Beriberi. Singal.Beri=Weak], showed its self among our Native crew, we have now six cases far advanced. This is much to be regretted, as it was this complaint, which carreied off by death, so many of our crew last year, it appears to have made a great impression on the minds of the Natives, who are appearently still in health. I am of oppinion with our Surgeon, it will be necessary to send many of them to BOMBAY.

It is evident such Natives from INDIA as we enlist, misnamed seamen, are totally unfit for the duties they are employed on, in this vessel on survey. But no better were to be got when we left BOMBAY, and our Surgeon examined the whole of them. Our boats on the survey have mostly been maned, by Europeans, the Natives have had little or no exposure, being generally on board the ship. Attention has been paid to the diet of the crew. For two months, we had a daily supply of vegetables, brought with us from MANGALORE, and we have never been under the influence of the winds, from the Islands. For few Islands are to been



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BODUGALU MISKIT, MALE, ca, 1100 A.D,
PHOTO, 1922, BELL, VILGON Coll,

seen in the Atolls we surveyed to the South of MALE or "KINGS ISLAND", and I cannot but remark, there is a sensible difference to the feelings, in the climate, among these reefs, and Islands, to what is experienced a few Miles only distant from them, and this is what I have heard many on board observe. Our European crew, are on the whole totally healthy.

4. Since my last communication to you, by Lieutenant LYNCH, in the "CARDIVA", on the 25th of December last, a copy of which I forward to you, we proceeded to MOLOQUE Atoll, and commenced our work on the Atoll, by the 4th of January, we laid the ground work for its completition, which will not occupy us long on our return. We filled up our water at MOLOQUE Island, and it was very good drinking water. Before our departure from MOLOQUE, I heared from the Natives, Lieutenant POWELL had regained the Islands, and that the "MALDIVA", Mr. BARKER, had left to rejoin him at ARI Atoll, Lieutenant LYNCH, in the "CARDIVA", was to leave MALE, on the 2nd of January, for COCHIN.

5. I have written to the Government, at COLOMBO, for the advance of 2,000 Rupees, on account of the expences of the vessel, under my command.

6. I shall not be able before our arrival at COCHIN, to send you a fair copy of our work, the weather has prevented our doing any thing on paper. Enclosed I forward a Sick report.

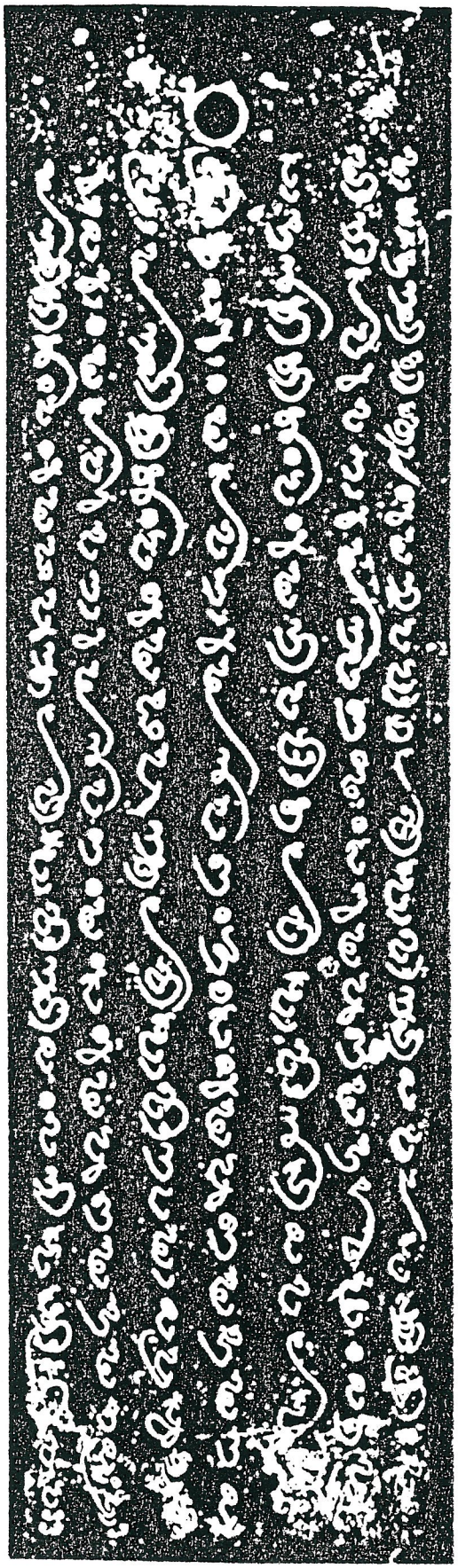
I have the honour to be &ce. ROBERT MORESBY. Commander.

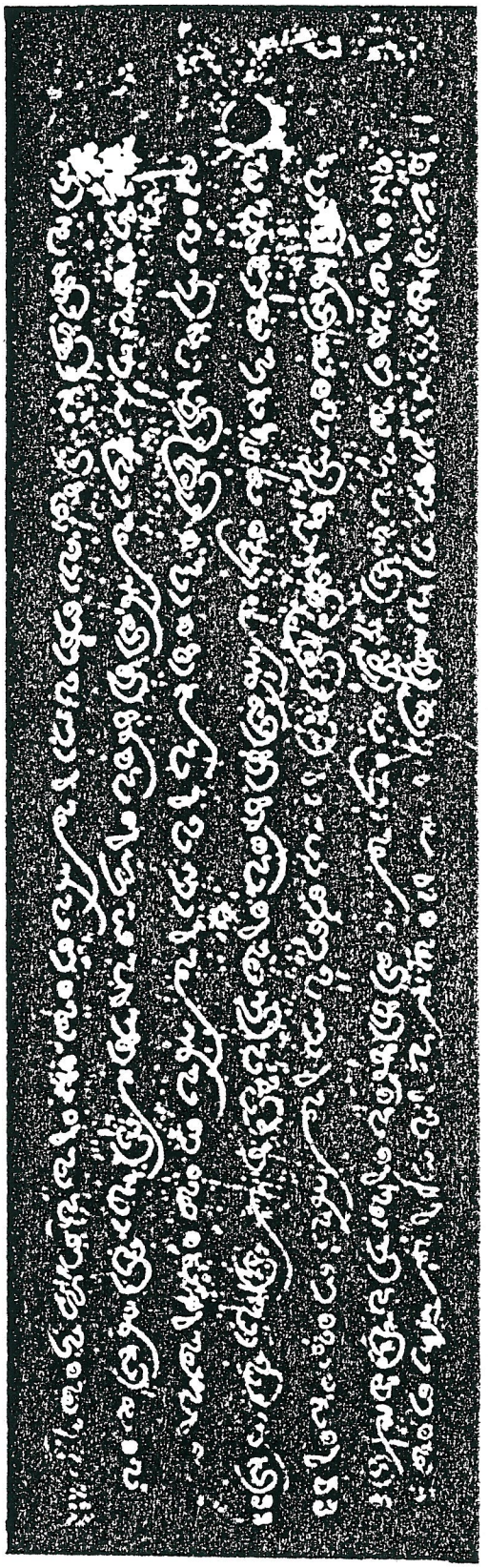
MORESBY's LETTER No. 11. Pages 300-302.

Letter from Commander ROBERT MORESBY. Hon. Comp. Surveying Ship "BENARES", to the Superintendent CHARLES MALCOM.
COCHIN 6th Feburary 1836.

Ihave the honour to report the arrival of the "BENARES", at COCHIN, on the 2nd instant, having left POINT de GALLE, on the 26th January, touching at COLOMBO, for chronometric measurments, which I am happy to say are most satisfactory. I mentioned in my former letter from POINT de GALLE, the leaky state of the "BENARES", in bad weather, again in crossing the GULF of MANAR, the leaks about the bows, and stern, caused 3 feet water an hour, in the well, I have therefore delayed writing to you, untill I am enabled to state how, and what repairs are requesite.

2. The principal builders here, has examined the vessel about the bows, having stript off some of the outer doubling planks. Between the head knees, found the seams quite open, the plank rotten about the seams, the bolts and the head knees, so old, and rusted away scarcely keep





COPPER PLATE GRANT, LOMAFANU,
BODUGALU MISKIT, MALE, ca, 1100 A.D.
PHOTO, 1922, BELL, VILGON Coll.

together. Two new head knees, must be fitted, the hawse-hole chocks taken out, and the seams well secured under them, which are now quite open. A rattan can be thrust, through the ships side in the seams, a new tack bumpkin required, our lower deck scuttles are also in a most ineffecient, and insecure state, these require repair. The whole repairs, the builder estimates at about 100, or 150 Rupees, and will occupy ten days to complete. I have directed him to finish it as soon as possible, and with the least possibly expense.

3. I consider it my duty, to bring to your notice, the careless and neglected manners, the "BENARES" when last in BOMBAY, was repaired. Had her bows been then examined, the head fastenings, and the seams under and about the hawse chocks, which were then repaired the expence at present might have been saved.

4. I have also to mention that the whole of the leaden scupper pipes, in the "CARDIVA", were so carelessly placed through the sides. The whole of them leaked between the lead, and the deck, and Lieutenant LYNCH was obliged to heave too, to pump out, on his passage from the Islands. I am obliged to have them all taken out and refitted. Her windlass also has been fitted without a thought, consequently useless, a trifle will make it perfectly efficient, the "CARDIVA" has been hauled up on the shore while here.

5. I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Assistant's letter, of date 11th January, No.90, enclosed General, and Squadron orders, also provisions and stores. Messrs CHRISTOPHER and RIDDLE, have also joined us, the former though in a weak state of health is improving. I am happy to forward a most interesting account of his residence on the Islands. [CHRISTOPHER wrote all of the famous report from MALE, as YOUNG was to sick. L.Vilgon.] And beg to bring to your notice, and that of the Government, the handsome manner the authorities at MALE, behaved to the crew of the "ADONIS" Schooner, which was wrecked.

6. I am sorry to say the Syrang, and two Lascars, are required to be sent to BOMBAY sick, the Surgeon suspects other Lascars, will from the same cause be obliged to return to BOMBAY, from the effects of the peculiar disease at these Islands. I have therefore entered, in the liew of of the Syrang, and two Lascars, two supernumerary, English seamen, at COLOMBO, which I trust you will sanction.

7. The state of the weather and violent motion of the vessel, during the whole of our passsage, to this place, has prevented us making a fair copy of our late survey. Mr. JONES Mate, is at present busily employed about it, which will I have no doubt be creditably executed, prior to our having this, and the copy I shall send, may, if you think proper, be forwarded to Europe, having already forwarded a rough one by Lieutenant LYNCH.

8. Respecting Mr. LEGATT's flour, supplied and warranted to last eight months, I have my doubts as to its present quality, and as there appears to be a difference of opinion respecting it, I have ordered some to be made into soaft bread, that we may have a Committee, and fairly judge on its merits, I will send you the report when finished.



COPPER PLATE GRANT, LOMAFANU,
BODUGALU MISKIT, MALE, ca. 1100 A.D.
PHOTO. 1922, BELL. VILGON Coll.

9. Messrs MATHEW's and BARRON's, Chronometer, McCabe No.229, supplied to Government, for the sum of 1,000 Rupees, I am happy to say has answered our most sanguine expectations, its rate is small, and it goes very regular, equal to our best watch, Baker No.857, which are the only two good watches now on board. One No.174 McCabe, having stopped, and an old comparasion watch 'N' supplied to Lieutenant LYNCH, has also stopped, the main spring being broke. I shall direct Mr. MORPHEW, Merchant, at this place, who I have enployed as the ships agent, to forward these watches by the first opportunity to BOMBAY.

10. I have already written to you respecting the trade to the MALDIVE Islands, and am still of opinion, the authorities, at MALE, are to ignorant, to comprehend, and unwilling to admit, the advantage they might derive by allowing free trade to be carried on between their Islands, and BOMBAY, I will again try on my return a futher explanation. I must say they are quite indifferent in and fearful of, any deviation from their old customs in trade.

I have the honour to forward a State and Condition, Sick List, Punishment Report, also Report of Survey on the Sick &co.

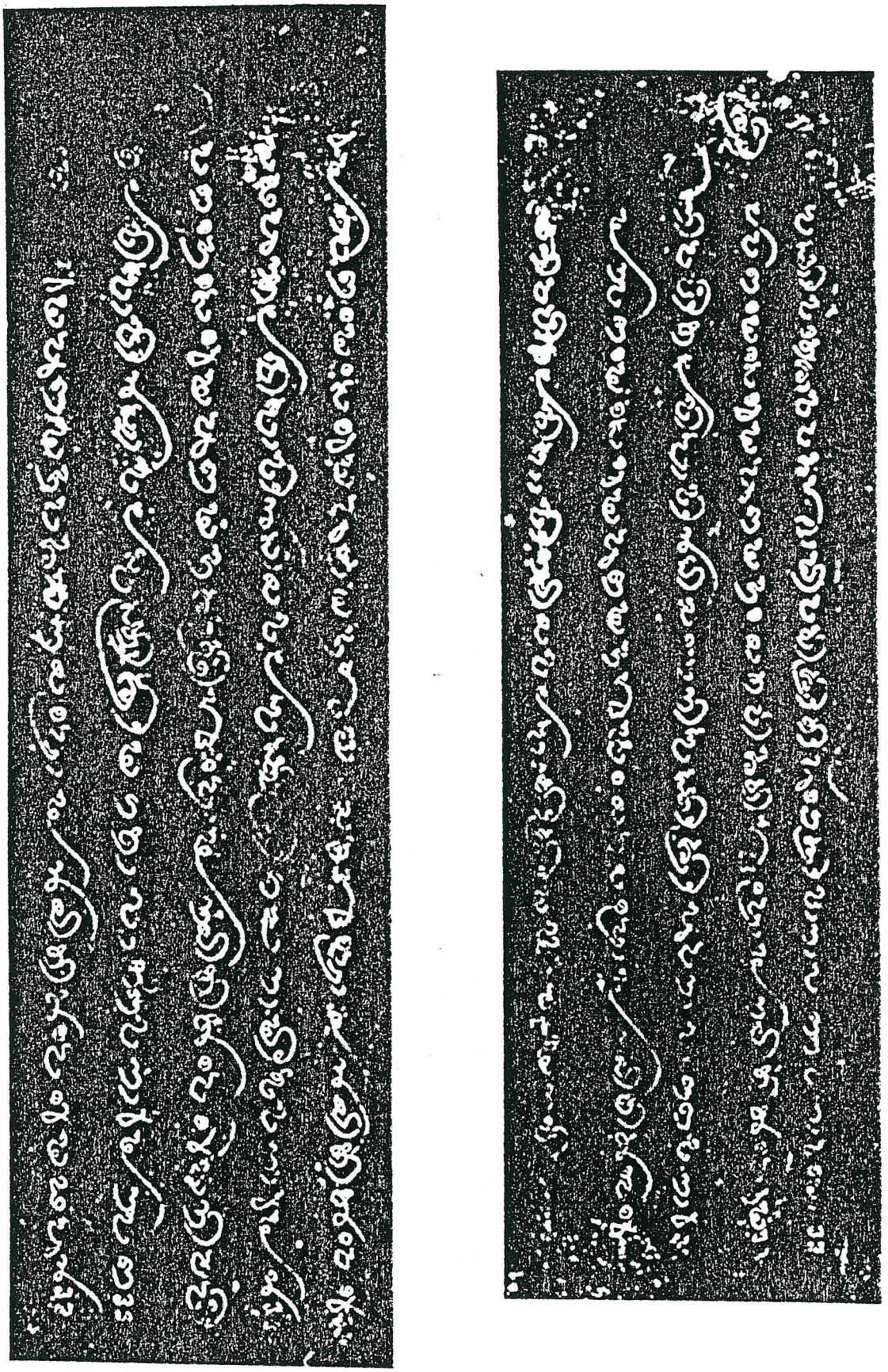
I have the honour to be &co. ROBERT MORESBY. Commander.

MORESBY's LETTER No. 12. Pages 303-305.

Letter from Commander ROBERT MORESBY, H. C. Surveying Ship "BENARES", to the Superintendent CHARLES MALCOM. Cochin 25th Feburary 1836.

Sir, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated February 2nd. It was my intention to have sailed from this on the 16th instant, returning to the Islands, I am sorry to say the unhealthy state of our Native crew, has prevented it. Our Syrang [Serang. Native Boatswain, chief of Lascar crew. L.Vilgon.] died on the 9th instant, several other men have since been attacked, and all of them more or less have been suffering from the effects of the MALDIVE climate. Consulting with our Surgeon, whose report I enclose, I have thought proper to wait somewhat longer, but hope to sail on the 27th instant.

I cannot but remark, that, our Native crew, are the most inefficient set of men, I ever sailed with. Their want of strength, and want of mind, quite incapacitates them for the work of seamen. It would have benefited the duties on the survey, had we not entered at BOMBAY, the Natives, or had I discharged the whole of them at this place, but as they are still indebted to the Government, for advance of pay. And Assistent Surgeon CAMPBELL, states in his letter, they are able to returne to the Islands. I think I am not authorized in discharging them, and it is our opinion, if we entered another Native crew, they would be equally subject to the



COPPER PLATE GRANT, LOMAFANU,
BODUGALU MISKIT, MALE, ca. 1100 A.D.
PHOTO, 1922, BELL, VILGON Coll.

same diseases, if we remained at the Islands longer than two months. Consequently our return to BOMBAY, late in May or early in June, will be of more service to the Government, than revisiting the coast for supplies &co, and than returning to the Islands.

We have just completed the work about the vessels bows, I am in hopes she will not in the future leak so much.

I have the honour to forward a fair Copy of our Survey-work, on a scale of half Inch to the Mile, and hope by the time we return to BOMBAY, to have a General Chart ready on Mercators projection, including the whole of the ISLANDS surveyed. By this opportunity I enclose my Chronometric measurements, which on the whole have been satisfactory having established the Longitude of MALE or "KINGS ISLAND", as 73° 34,6′. On comparing our measurements, I differ 2 Miles in the Longitude of this place, this I hope on our return to be able to correct. The two of our chronometers which have stopped, I leave in the hands of Mr. MORPHE, the ships agent, directing him to forward them to BOMBAY.

In reply to the 2nd Paragraph of your Assistant's letter, I am not yet decided as to the rapidity of the currents, being increased, as we proceed to the Southward, and open out the Bay of BENGAL. I am more inclined to favour the opinion, that the currents, at the Southern Islands, partake more of the direction of the winds, which are there very variable. As yet our observations respecting the current amounts to little or nothing more, than what has already been mentioned by Mr. HORSBURGH in his directory.

In answer to the later part of the 2nd Paragraph, I am of your opinion it would be certainly adviseable the "BENARES" remaining among the Islands until the South-West monsoon sets in. But from what we have already experienced, it would be most imprudent our remaining actually among the Islands more than six weeks, or two months. At a time even that short period we have seen seriously endangers the lives of our Native crew, a longer residence as formerly experienced, might affect the European crew, and Officers.

I must therefore be guided by the time we arrive at the Islands, and hope by the middle of stay, to have finished the whole group, excepting the one Southern Atoll, SOOADEEVE. I propose then returning to BOMBAY with the "BENARES", "ROYAL TIGER" and "CARDIVA". Leaving the "MALDIVA" at SOOADEEVA Atoll, arriving early in June at BOMBAY, I see no objections to the surveying vessels, returning to the Southern Islands, during the South-West monsoon, for near the EQUATOR squalls, and rain, are more or less experienced during the whole of the year.

According to the report of the Surgeon, three Lascars, severerly and dangrerosly sick, require to be sent to BOMBAY. Mr. CHRISTOPHER also is obliged to leave on sick certificate to the NEILGHERRIES [NILGIRI-MONTAINS INDIA]. Lieutenant POWELL in the "ROYAL TIGER" has not yet returned, I have no doubt he is doing his outmost to complete ARI Atoll.

I have the honour to be &co. ROBERT MORESBY. Commander. ***



MALDIVE SOUVENIRS for EXPORT.
PHOTO. AMIN DIDI. 1949. VILGON Coll.

MORESBY's LETTER No. 13. Pages 307-312.

Letter from Commander ROBERT MORESBY, H. C. Surveying Ship
to the Superintendent CHARLES MALCOM. Dated 30th June 1836. [Bombay]

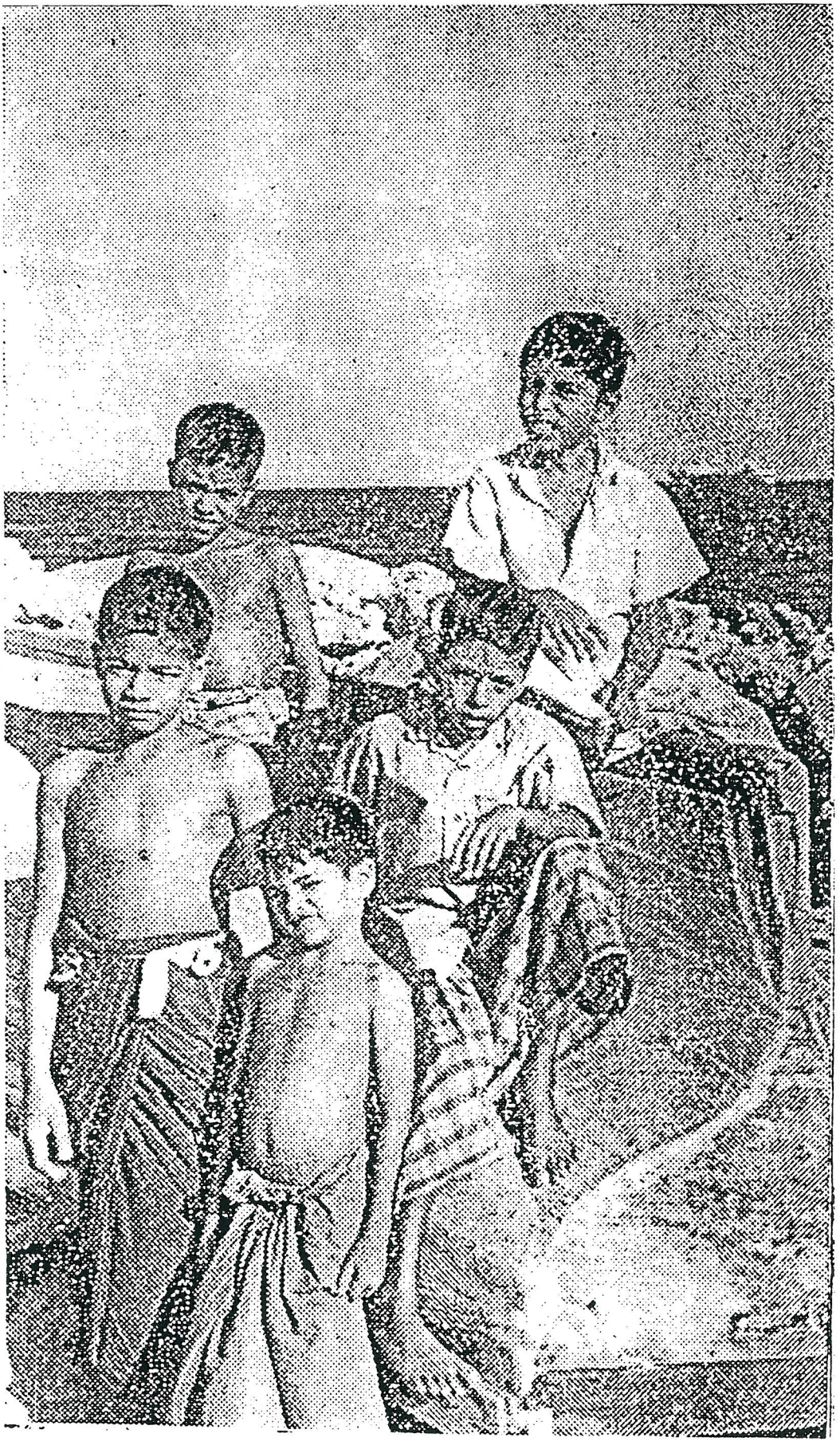
I have the honour to inform you that having with much exertion, and labour, satisfactory finished, the whole of the MALDIVA Atolls, excepting SOADAN, or SOUADORIA Atoll (Suvadiva) to the South, on the 8th of June, I left ADOOMATTEE (Hadhunmathi), in company with the "ROYAL TIGER", Lieutenant POWELL, intending to touch at SOUADIVA, for a few days with the hopes of obtaining observations, and some supplies, we were two days reaching SOADIVA, with the light wind from the North-East side of the Atoll seeking for a passage, between the Islands, or Reefs. Partially fixing them as we went along the water edge, on wich a heavy surf was breaking, unfortunately the wind changed to the West-South-West direct foul, and prevented us entering without great risk.

I therefore deemed it most prudent to proceed on to BOMBAY as our provisions were getting short, and several of our crew sick from the peculiar bowel complaint which effects them at these Islands. Several of our European seamen have been attached with it, but only one or two dangerously. On the whole our crew, both Native, and European, have since leaving COCHIN, been in tolerable health. This vessel and her trenders having only lost by death, two European, and two Native seamen, in the last three month, one of these was poisoned by eating a toad fish, the other died from complaints not peululiar to these Islands.

We have been fortunate so far considering our crew have been now four Months on salt provisions, as the cattle we formerly left at MALE, or "KINGS ISLAND", were so wretchedly lean and sickly for want of good grass, we could not make use of them. Neither fish, or poultry, have we been able to obtain for the crew, and one half of the vegetables we brought from COCHIN, for them, have been destroyed by the innumerable rats we have on board.

The detail of our proceedings since leaving COCHIN on the 3rd of March, are as follows. We reached MALE or "KINGS ISLAND" on the 13th of March, having had light winds from the Northward all the way. At MALE I made known to the Government there through HAMED DEEDEE, you wishes respecting trade. All the answer I could get was a shake of the head. It appears they are quite unwilling to alter their old system of trade, more particularly to open the trade to INDIAN vessels at any other Islands, or Atolls, except MALE.

Althrough I tried to convince them, the profits would be more to them, as the same duties could be exacted at any Atoll by the Atoll Warree, or Chief as at MALE, and the same presents sent to the SULTAN. HAMED DEEDEE said this was all very true, and good, but it never would be consented to by the SULTAN, and his Ministers.



MALDIVE BOYS by the SEA.
PHOTO. KASSIS 1962. VILGON Coll.

At MALE I received a letter from Lieutenant POWELL, informing me of his departure, and proceedings at the Islands. I left him orders on his return to join me. Remaining at MALE two days, we then proceeded to MOLOQUE Atoll [MULAKU], which we completed in ten days. The weather being squally all round, and between the squalls calm and sully hot weather. From MOLOQUE Atoll we crossed the channel to NILLANDOO Atoll distant West 22 Miles, the "CARDIVA" in company.

On the 28th of March I commenced from the South the survey of NILLANDOO Atoll, which is devided into two halves, the Northern one and the Southern one, by a small channel four Miles broad. By the 14th of April we finished the whole of NILLANDOO Atoll during which time we had calms with sultry and appressive weather, sometimes light Northerly airs, the thermometer on board from 82° to 90°.

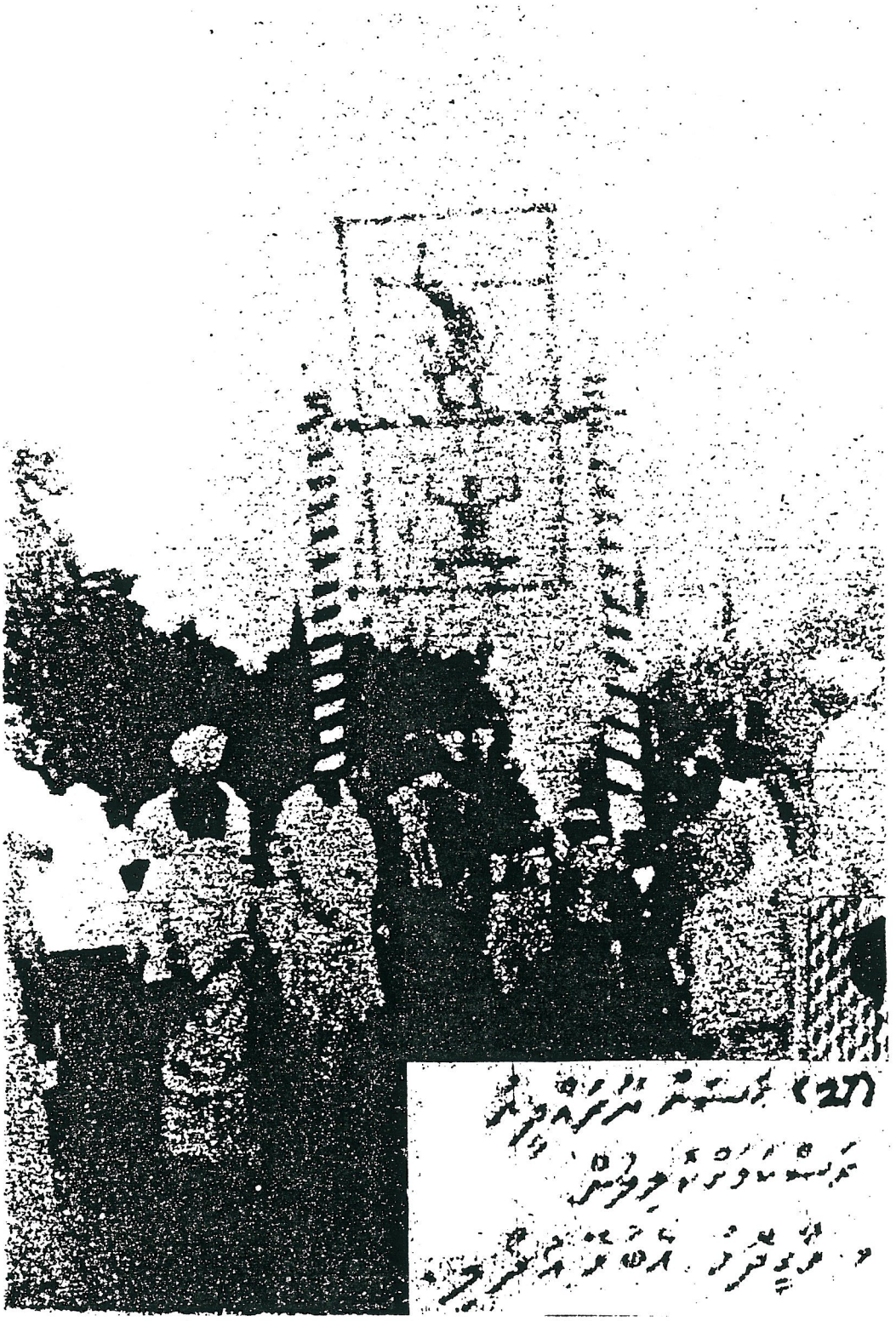
On the 15th of April, I sent an offficer in a Native boat to ARI Atoll in order to launch the "MALDIVA" survey boat ready for the return of the "ROYAL TIGER". On the 18th April the "ROYAL TIGER" joined us when we proceeded together to ARI Atoll and completed what was left undone, of this Atoll and on the 28th we had completed it. Between these two dates, 18th and 28th of April, squally and rainy weather set in from the Southward and West and North-West. Blowing hard in the squalls.

On the 29th I dispatched the "MALDIVA", Lieutenant PRENTICE to MALE with letters, as also to make his observations and take soundings in the channels between the Eastern and Western group of Atolls. He was absent 12 days during which time we had most boisterous weather from the Westward which we considered as the setting in or change of the Monsoon winds. After much risk and exposure Lieutenant PRENTICE joined us again at COLLOMANDOO Atoll [KOLHUMADULU], at the East end of which Atoll we at the same time were at the West end.

He was unable from the high sea and strong current raised by the strong Westerly winds to work up to us in the interior of the Atoll. A stranger supposes that it would be impossible for a high sea to get up in the interior of any of these Atolls surrounded by barrier reefs, but the diameter of them is sufficient extensive and the Southern Atolls COLLOMANDOO, and ADOOMATTIS, have very few reefs, and deeper water in their centres, than those of the Northern Atolls.

I forward Lieutenant PRENTICE report of his trip though there is nothing of particular interest in it. From the end of April to the 5th of May we were employed filling up our soundings inside and outside of NILLANDOO Atoll. On the 6th we stood across the channel to COLLOMANDOO Atoll, tenders in company. All this time we had squalls with rain, at intervals the wind from the South to North-West with a heavy swell breaking on the barrier reefs, and in crossing the channel.

From the 6th to the 22nd of May employed surveying COLLOMANDOO Atoll, the wind still from the Westward with squalls and rain at times. Our tenders in company in crossing from NILLANDOO to COLLOMANDOO and thence to ADDOOMATTIS Atoll experienced little or no currents but a heavy swell from the Westward. In COLLOMANDOO Atoll we visited the wreck of the "ADONIS", schooner, a fine copper fastened schooner of 150 Tons. Her



MALDIVE ISLANDS CELEBRATING ITS INDEPENDENCE.
PHOTO, 1965. VILGON Coll.

hull-stores &co now on board, and on shore, under charge of the Natives, amount I should think two thousand Rupees in value. The Natives know not what to do with them. The authorities at MALE are too much afraid to make use of them, and unless something is done, every thing will soon be decayed, except her copper, and fastenings. She lays about 20 yards inside the barrier reef, and at low water spring tides is dry along side.

On the 22nd of May we commenced ADOOMATTIS Atolls, and finished it by the 2nd of June, on the evening of that day. With the assistance of the Natives, we hauled up on shore the "CARDIVA" and the "MALDIVA" tenders, had them well tatched over, painted, and their equipment tarred. They are on the Island of MHORVAH [MAAVAH] the North-West Island of ADDOOMATTIS.

From the 22nd of May to the 8th June, the weather had been tolerably fine, with light winds from the South-South-East. On the evening of the 8th of June, it set in squally, and rainy, from the West-North-West with dark threatening appearances. With the first squall I weighed, with the "ROYAL TIGER" in company, and stood out of the Atoll, intending to proceed to SOADIVA Atoll, as the first part of my letter mentions.

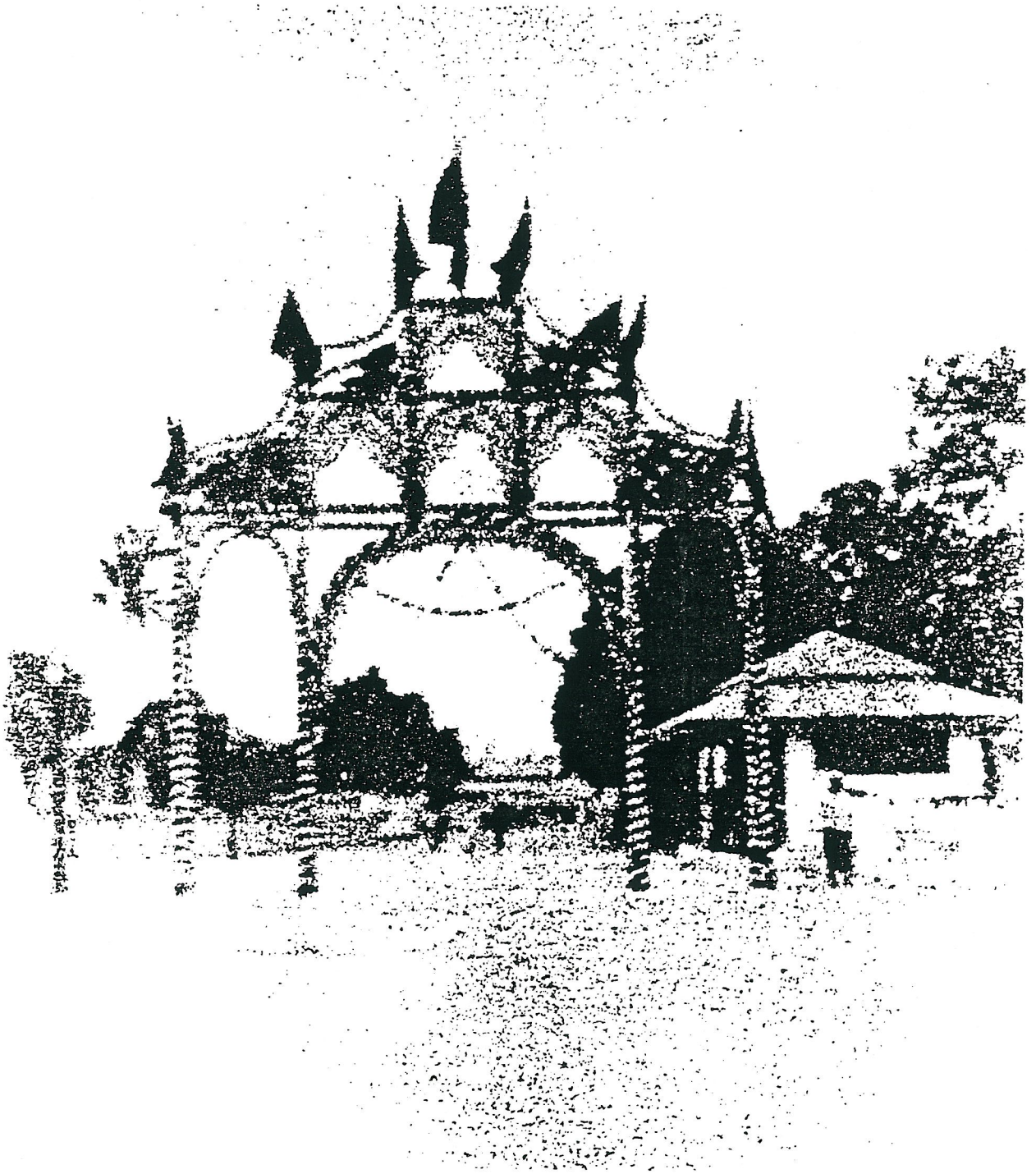
The South-West monsoon had fairly set in before we left the Atolls, but its effects are only at times felt in the Southern Atolls, in Latitude 1° 50' North, Southernly and South-South-East winds prevaling at times with moderate weater sometimes during the springs it belows hard from the Westward with constant squalls.

We parted company with the "ROYAL TIGER" on the night of the 12th of June, blowing then a hard squall from the North-West since which time we have not met. We have had so much wind and heavy sea during our passage from the Islands, we have not been able to complete a fair copy of our chart. I shall therefore require a few days for this as also waiting directions for navigating the channels among the Atolls.

I have made several sketches, and colletions of the Islands and Reefs, and specimens of their formation, a number of plants and sea-weed, as also two Maldivian skulls and some shells should Government not require these things I shall be happy if you will as President of the Geographical Society present them in my name. [Some of these collections are in the Geographical Society in Bombay. L.Vilgon.]

I have the honour to forward a copy of the Log, State and Condition, Punishment report, Description list, and the Will of CHA* DANCE late Able seamen of the "ROYAL TIGER".

I have ... honour to be &co. ROBERT MORESBY Commander. ***



MALDIVE ISLANDS CELEBRATING ITS INDEPENDENCE.
PHOTO, 1965. VILGON Coll.

MORESBY's LETTER No. 14. Page 324.

Extrat of a letter from Commander ROBERT MORESBY to the Superintendent CHARLES MALCOM. Point de Galle 20th of Jan. 1837.

I have also to forward a Copy of our work finishing the Survey of the MALDIVE ISLANDS.

I have &co. R. MORESBY, Commander. ***

MORESBY's LETTER No. 15. Pages 326-327.

Letter from Commander ROBERT MORESBY, H. C. Surveying Ship "BENARES" to the Superintendent CHARLES MALCOM. Point de Galle 6th of Feb. 1837.

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1. As there appears to be much doubt, as to the possibility of surveying the SAYA DE MATHA Baut during the greatest strength of the South-East trade, in the months of June, July, and August, and that the season for our operations there, must be October, and November, I request to know if I am permitted to remain out from BOMBAY, till I can complete that Baut, should we not be able to survey it the former mentioned months.

2. I am in hopes of being able to complete the CHAGOS GROUP, by the end of May and be here by June, sending the tenders "CARDIVA" and "MALDIVA", to the SEYCHELLE Islands when we leave the CHAGOS.

3. On leaving GALLE in June next, I would go direct to the SAYA DE MALHA Baut, and if nothing can be done, I proceed to the SEYCHELLE Islands, and join our tenders, waiting the season for our operations.

4. Should you decide on the "BENARES" remaining to finish these Banks, it will be required we take onboard eight months provisions, such as we cannot procure here. I forward indents to BOMBAY for this purpose, which can be passed, or not, as you may decide.

5. We require another "Nautical Almanack" for 1838.

6. I have the honor to enclose a report from Assistant Surgeon CAMPBELL, respecting the Sindel of the "ROYAL TIGER", who has been discharged to the shore, with one month provisions, and ten (10) Ropiees, sufficient to provide him with a passage by first ship to BOMBAY.

By this opportunity I forward the Monthly state and condition, and Sick report, and Muster rolls for January 1837.

I have the honour to be &co. ROBERT MORESBY. Commander. ***



GAN ISLAND, ADDO ATOLL.
THE BRITISH MILITARY AIR FIELD.
PHOTO. KASSIS 1962. VILGON Coll.

1835. MORESBY, ROBERT.

IN; Maldive Archipelago. Remarks by Commander Moresby, Indian Navy 1835, Commander Moresbys' Manuscript Report on Some Part of the Maldive Islands in 1835. Honourable East India Company, Archives, Bombay.

Captain ROBERT MORESBY, Commander over the four surveying ships at the Maldive Islands 1834-37, has given much more information about the Maldive Islands than his published books and articles show. I have found hundreds of pages of manuscript letters and articles in the different archives in India and England. These are never published and hardly read for the last hundred fifty years.

This is a letter written during the survey of the Maldives the 4th of July 1835, in which he gives information about who and why they were given the permission to stay in Male and to survey the Maldives, the rebellion 1833, the Saga about the Archipelago's disappearance into the Ocean, proofs that some Islands are washed away and cracked in halves and swallowed by the sea. The anchorage procedure at Male and how the Smallpox is handled. [ENGLISH]

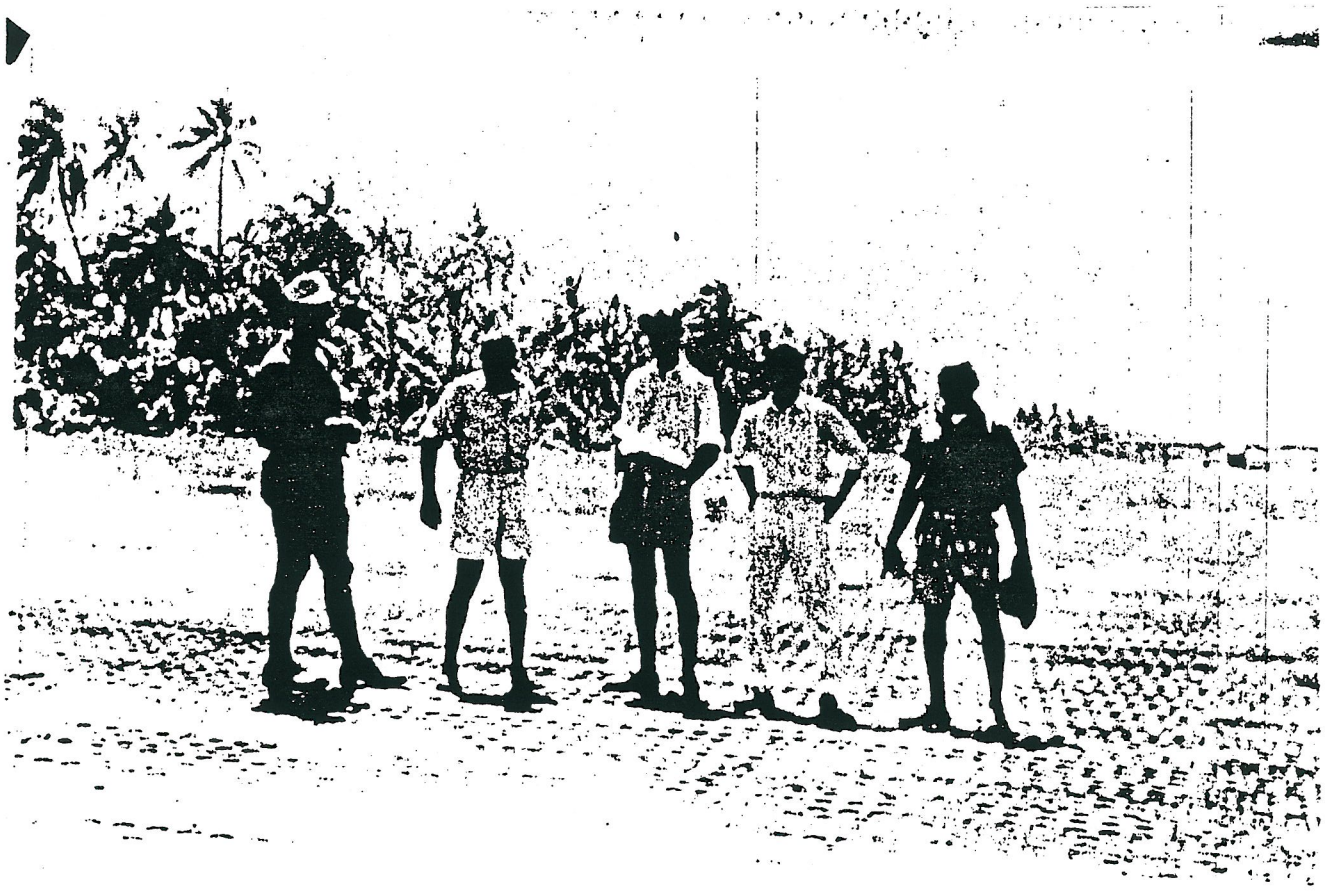
[Letter from Captain ROBERT MORESBY, 4th of July 1835.]

On Service.

To Captain Sir Charles Malcolm,
Superintendent of the Indian Navy. Bombay.

Sir,
I beg to lay before you a short account of the events which have taken place in the Government of the Maldeave Islands since my first visit to Male or "King's Island" in November 1834. At that time the old Sultan [MUHAMMAD MU'IN UD DIN I.] was alive but in a very infirm state of health. In January last [1835] he died, after a reign they state of 37 years, and was succeeded by his second son HASSAIN ISKANDER [As Sultan; MUHAMMAD IMAD UD DIN IV.], the eldest having died some years ago. He was supposed to have been poisoned. The present Sultan seems a young man of about 24 years of age [17 years in fact. L.Vilgon.], with a pleasing and intelligent counterance. They speak well of him, but he is without education of any sort further than that what can be gained on the Islands, which is very little.

The late Sultan [MUHAMMAD MU'IN UD DIN I.] from the best information I could obtain, was despotic and ignorant. During his reign the trade and prosperity of the Islands have fallen greatly into decay, and except Male present nothing of that industry and comfort described by LA VALE in his account of them in the year 1695. [The book by Francois Pyrard



HULHLE ISLAND FIRST AIRFILD in the 1960,
LANDING STRIP of STEEL SHEETS,
PHOTO, midd 1960, VILGON Coll,

de Laval is from 1611, L.Vilgon.] As I have found this author's statement very correct in other respects, I am inclined to place a great deal of credit in his account of them.

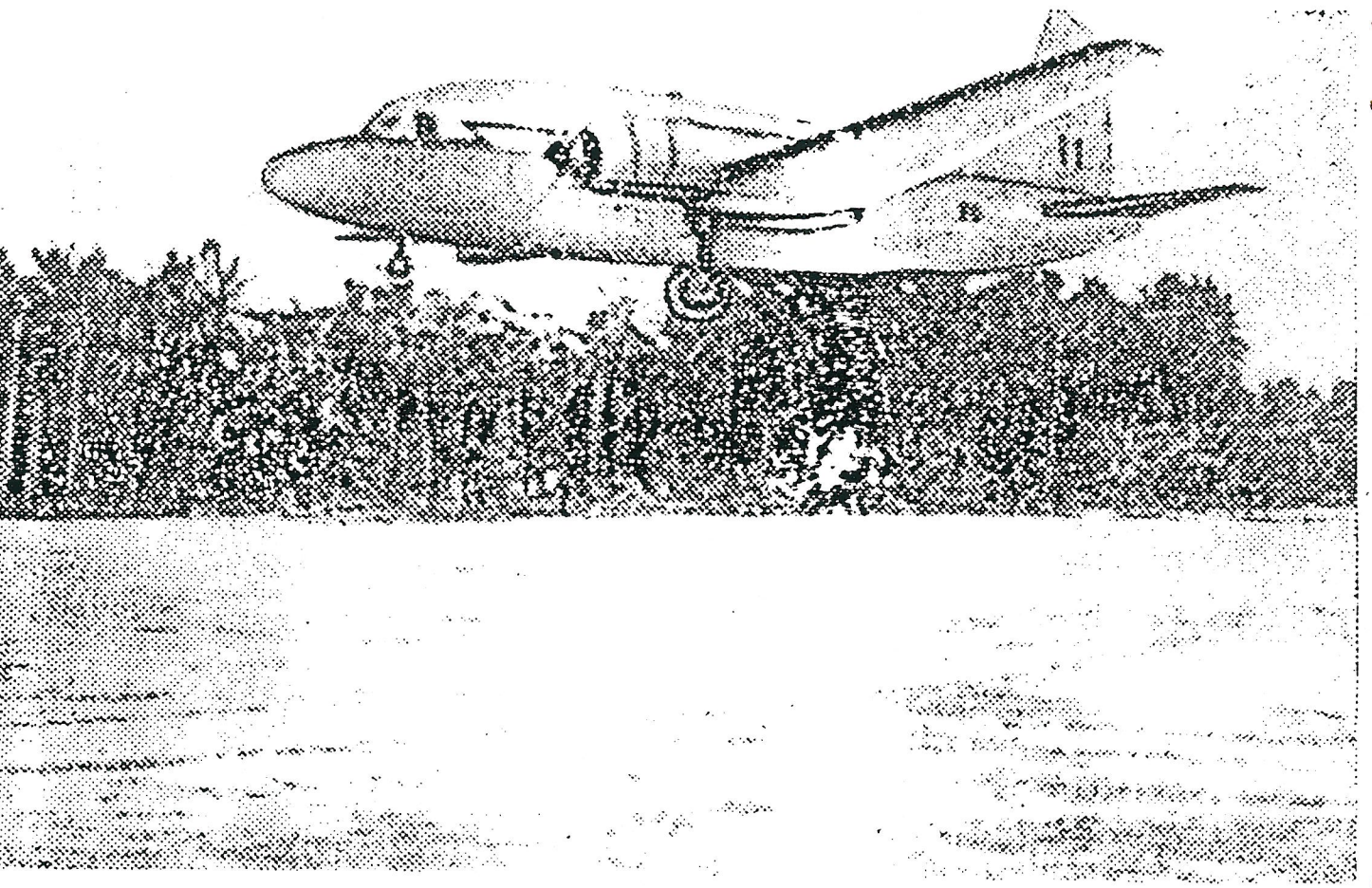
It is no later than two years ago (1832-33) a rebellion was excited by the old Sultan's arbitrary conduct, at the head of which was his younger brother HAMED DEEDEE, a man of sense and worth. HAMED DEEDEE with a party of his followers seized the Sultan and threatened to put him to death. However after mutrial explanation and promises on the part of the Sultan, he, HAMED DEEDEE, released him.

But not fancying himself quite safe after such an act, he left the Islands at midnight in a large boat, with about 40 of his relations and retainers. He steered for the coast of Arabia, but by the time he reached the Gulf of Aden, was in great distress his provisions were nearly gone, the boat much damaged and leaky and he had every prospect of terminating his career there, when his good fortune brought one of our Cruizers to his relief (Oct. 1833. Surveying Brig "PALINURUS", Captain HAINES.). His damages were repaired and a supply of provisions given him, with which he reached Mocha (Arabia), here finding the boat unfit to go to sea. He sold her and took a passage with his people in an Arab Buggalow for Muscat (Oman) , where they arrived in safety. Here he remained some months and then removed to Cannanore, that he might be at home to take advantage of any favorable change in the Government.

On the death of his brother the Sultan, he [HAMED DEEDEE] went to the Island of Minicoy, to wait the progress of events at Male and to keep up a communication with his friends there. The Government after the accession of the present Sultan, fellt into great disorder and things getting daily worse, by a general wish of the people the young Prince invited him to return. He accepted the invitation and his arrival was hailed by all with joy, he has declined taking any official situation, but his influence continues great and his advice and opinion are generally adopted.

We have found HAMED DEEDEE of great use to us, to him we are indebted for the permisssion granted by the Sultan for the two Officers, Lieutnant YOUNG and Mr. CHRISTOPHER, to reside with their attendants at Male. He told his countrymen how usless it was for them to show fear and suspicion of us, he explained to them, that if the English Government only chose to stop their supplyes of rice, they would all die of starvation, therefore it was best for them to leave off telling lies and making difficulties, their tricks would soon be found out as was the case before, he alluded to the Sultan's letter in reply to the Bengal Steam [Ship] Committei's application about a coal depot.

He further told them, that as we were determined to make this survey, their best policy was to treat us kindly, and they would all reap benefit from an intercourse with the English. Then addressing himself to



GAN ISLAND, ADDO ATOLL.
THE BRITISH MILITARY AIR FIELD.
PHOTO. KASSIS 1962. VILGON Coll.

us he said he hoped that we would not credit the reports that we had heard, that the sickness of our men was caused by poisoning the water. The report I told him must have originated amongst themselves, as we never once supposed them capable of such an atrocious act.

There is a strange tradition amongst the natives, which I will relate. They say, that their Islands will one day come into the possession of Europeans, and that from that time they will decrease in population, and the sea begin to flow over them, at last they will be entirely overflowed. When ships sail over where the Maldives were and when the sailors see the rockey and coral bottom beneath, they will say: "Here once were Islands with inhabitants." As a sign of these times many people will leave their homes and go to different parts of India.

Father will be against son, daughter against mother and brother against brother. They even now remark that some of these signs are fulfilling. For provisions are hardly, to be procured. Industry and commerce have nearly ceased, and it may be said that the people have barely a miserable existance, which most probably is the cause of so much disease and of their being so shortlived.

This tradition of theirs may be traced to similar traditions in Arabia, from whence they have directly derived their religion. When we were at Iuddah [Jiddah] on the survey of the Red-Sea I have frequently heared from the higher classes of the Arabs the following strange story, which they all believe. They relate that every stone of the "Cohaba" [Kaaba], the holy temple of Mecca, would one day be thrown away, and that every stone of it will be transferred from hand to hand to be thrown into the sea. The distance from Mecca to the coast is 35 miles, allowing men to stand three feet apart, it would require 71,400 men to do it, calculating the miles as nautical ones.

Amongst the Atolls we have surveyed it has been a general remark that many of them are perceptibly working away. On some the cocoatreas are actually in the sea on others many of then have been entirely washed away. On one of these Islands at low water there is still to be seen the soil matted with roots of trees, at least 300 feet from the beach which appear at one time to have been a part of the Island but since overflowed by the sea. A considerable part of the East side of an Island in Phaider Pholo Atoll [Faadhippolhu] is washed away, an immense Banyan tree lies in the sea bottom high water mark with its roots still fixed in the earth.

That a part of the Islands have been washed away, the natives all agree in stating and also that in some instances they have increased on the opposite side, but not near to the extent they have been washed away. They say that many Islands have disappeared altogether, and for instance one near the Island of Wardoo belonging to the Atoll Milla Don Maloo [VAADHOO in MILADHUNMADULU Atoll] leaving only a rocky shoal.



MALE. NEW RESIDENTIAL HOUSES.
PHOTO. AMIN DIDI. 1949. VILGON Coll.

The opinion seems quite familiar to them, that reefs have risen out of water, forming Islands complete in time with vegetation, one instance of an event of this kind is within the memory of the present inhabitants of Male. Within the harbour of Male there is a circular reef [Funadhoo], the outer edge or rim of which they say, in former days, had on the shoalest part two fathoms the inside of the reef has 6 or 7 fathoms water. The outer rim is now dry at low water, and has seweral heavy anchors placed on it, for the vessels to make fast to, during the South-West monsun.

Another fact is worthy of being remarked. Some of the outer edges of the Atolls, only a few yards from the fathomless sea have been known to fall off into the sea, as much as half an Island at a time.

Vaccination is occasionally practiced at Male on the families of the Islanders who are likely to be enmployed in their vessels going to India. The vaccinators are the "Keolho" [Captain] of the small vessels which trade from Bengal to the Maldives. Those who never expect to leave the Islands, neither vaccinate nor inoculate. They have a great dread of smallpox, from the feareful ravages which it makes with their boats crews who visit India, they mention one melancholy case of three boats crews, consisting of about 80 men, who were stopping at Chittagong, they were carried off to a man, and the agents sent the boats back with hired men. At Male, when a man is known to have the smallpox, he is sent to an uninhabited Island, where his food is daily sent to him.

The above information regarding vaccination I obtained from an intelligent "Naquedah" [Sea-captain] of one of the trading vessels from India lying at the Island.

I have to observe as one stay at Male was so limited and my time so occupied in the duties of survey and compiling our chart, I had not much time to make enquiries, but Lieutenant Robinson [MORESBY's adjutant], who had more leisure, concluded report I have left undone, and whose observations I forward. More valuable informations will no dout be collected by the officers we left at Male. Their names are recorded in a preceding page.

I have also the honour to annex to this, an able and detailed report from my assistant surgeon CAMPBELL of the prevailing diseases of the Islands, and his opinion of the causes thereof.

Honourable Companies Surveing Ship "BENARES" 4th July 1835.

I have the honour etz. ROBERT MORESBY. Commander and Surveyer. ***



MALE. "IBRAHIM MAIDEN" ROAD.
PHOTO. AMIN DIDI. 1949. VILGON Coll.

1835. MORESBY, ROBERT.

IN: A Memoir on the Present State of the Maldive Islands, [MANUSCRIPT] by Commander Robert Moresby of the H. C. Surveying Ship "BENARES". Maldive Archipelago. Honourable East India Company. Bombay.

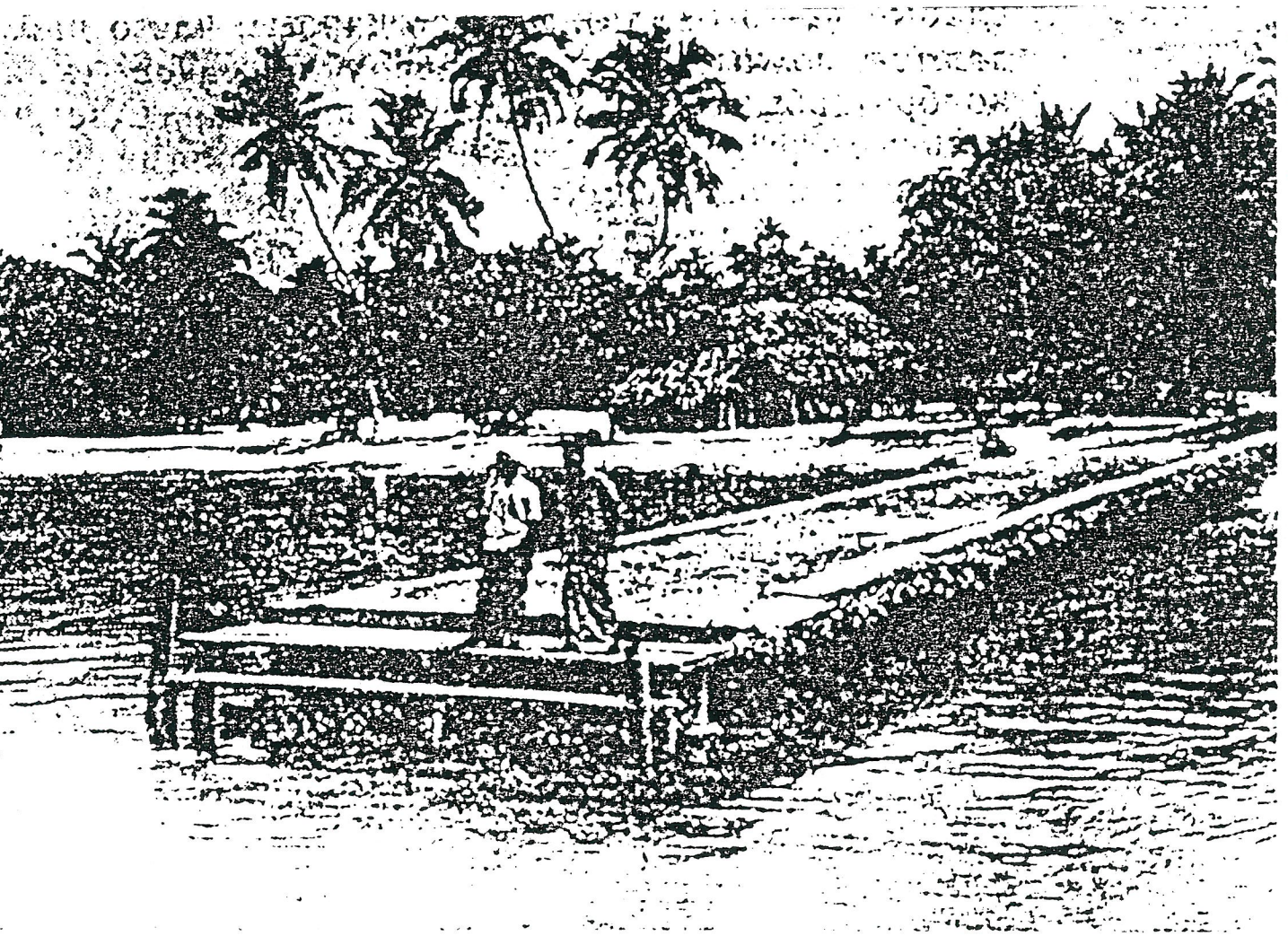
ROBERT MORESBY was the Commander of the surveying fleet sent out by the Honourable East Indian Company in 1834-1837, to make the first accurate charts over the Maldive Islands. This is his own hand-written "Report" about what he saw, heard and met in the Islands. It has never been published. Unfortunately the last part of it is lost. [ENGLISH]

Before entering on the subject of this memoir, it may be interesting to the reader to state the causes which led to the survey being undertaken. For many years back a survey of this chain of Coral Islands, which extend from 07° 17' 00" North latitud to 00° 40' 00" South latitude. Crossing a great part of the track of our trade to INDIA, has been considered of the greatest importance to the navigation in these seas, and none have been more instrumental in getting the present survey undertaken than Mr. HORSBURGH, hydrographer to the East India Company etc, whose enlightened mind had long ago foreseen all the advantages which would arise from it.

I beg promise that in this paper it is not meant to give any nautical remark but merely to give a cursory view of the present state of the country. When the survey of the Red Sea was finished in April 1834, I was ordered to proceed in the Honourable Company Surveying Ship "BENARES" on the service, and left BOMBAY on the 27th of September 1834. Having another one the "ROYAL TIGER", a schoner in charge of Lieutenant F. T. POWELL, Asisstant Surveyor, and the "MALDIVA" a large decked boat as tenders.

On the 15th of November 1834, we arrived at MALE, or KING'S ISLAND on which is the capital Island. It is the residence of the SULTAN, and indeed of all the men of rank and property. Having delivered the Government's letter, I received permission from the SULTAN, after some delay, to undertake the survey.

Shortly after my arrival I perceived that our visit excited very considerable apprehension on the mind of all classes of the natives from the SULTAN and his Viziers downwards, to show the reason for this, it may be both necessary and interesting to look back a few years in to the history and traditions of the Island, which we found, instead of having advanced in the riches and comforts attending a state progressing in civilization, had greatly retrograded from the days in which LAVALL wrote his excellent account of them in the year 1695. [Right 1602-7].



MALE ATOLL. ISLAND with JETTY. [HULHLE]
PHOTO. 1971-3. PECHUKOV. VILGON Coll.

On our first arrival we found the old Sultan [MUHMMAD MUIN UD DIN, I] in the Musnud [Cushion = Throne], but in so infirm a state of health as not to be able to receive my visit. He died in the following Jan. 1835 after a reign of thirty seven years and was succeeded by his second son, HASSAN ISKANDER [MUHAMMD IMAD UD DIN, IV], the oldest having died some years before, suspected of having been poisoned. The young Prince, i.e. King, appeared to be about twenty three years of age [17 years], has a pleasing and rather an intelligent countinance, his educations has been very contracted, being only what could be obtained on the Island.

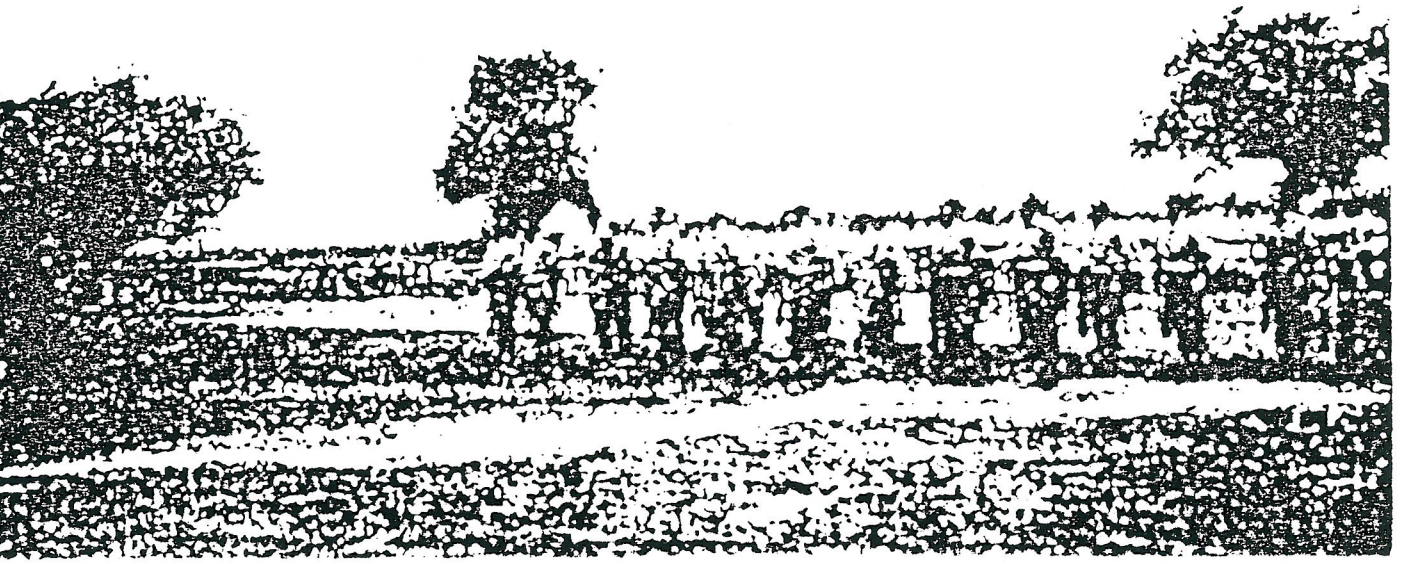
From the best information I could obtain the old Sultan was an ignorant and despotic ruler. During his reign the trade and prosperity, of the Islands had fallen into sad decay, and, except at MALE, they present nothing of that industry and comfort described by [PYRARD] LAVALL, as I have found this authors statement very correct in other respects, I am inclined to believe what he says of their prosperity in 1695 when he wrote his book [Published 1619].

The selfish and oppressive conduct of the Sultan produced a rebellion in 1832-33, which was headed by his younger brother, HAMED DEEDEE. The rebel sized the Sultan, but instead of proceeding to put him to death as was at first intended, they released him after he had engaged to reduce their wrong and to govern with more justice. HAMED DEEDEE however did not put entire faith in his brother's promises and come guently.

He left MALE in a large boat at midnight with about forty of his relations and retaines for MOCKA (RED SEA), but by the time he reached the GULF of ADEN he was in great distress, his provisions and water were nearly gone, the boat damaged and very leaky, and he had every prospect of terminating his career there when his good fortune brought the H.C.Survey Brig "PALERIVECS", Commander HAINES, into his eclipse, who repaired his damages, supplied him with water and provisions and thus enabled him to reach MOCKA in safety.

After a short stay at MOCKA he went with his followers to MUSCAT, OMAN, and having remained there some time, he proceeded from there to CANANORE (INDIA). Whilst there, he heard of the death of his brother, and that his nephew NASSAIN ISKANDER had ascended the Musnud, on this he immediately went over to the Island of MINICOY to be near at hand, and to open a communication with his friends at MALE. The affairs of state, from the young Sultan's inexperience, soon fell into great disorder, where the people loudly called for the return of HAMED DEEDEE.

The Sultan acceded to their wishes and sent to MINICOY to invite him to return, which he did and received a warm welcome from all classes. He has continued to hold great influence with the Government, and has shown to us in many instances his gratitude for the succour afforded him in his distress, and it was alone through his liberal feelings towards us that Lieutenant YOUNG and Midshipman CHRISTOPHER were allowed to remain as visitors at the capital when I left the Island, on the 22nd of May 1835. He seems most anxious for a nearer connection with BOMBAY but it is much to be feared, that the influence of the other Viziers will be too great to admit of such an apparent innovation.



MALE. THE MILITARY DETACHMENT. 12 Man.
PHOTO. AMIN DIDI. 1949. VILGON Coll.

I stated before that our arrival had caused great alarm, the cause of it, however ridiculous it may appear, seems to be founded on the following strange tradition in which they put implicit faith. They say:

"That their Islands will one day come into the possession of Europeans, and from that time they will decrease in population, and the sea begin to flow over them, at last they will be entirely overflowed. When ships sail over where the MALDIVES were, and when the sailors see the rocky and coral bottom beneath, they will say: 'Here once were Islands with inhabitants.' As a sign of these times, they say that many people will leave their home and go to different parts of INDIA. Father will be against his Son, Daughter against Mother and Brother against Brother. They even now remark that some of these signs are fullfilling, for provisions are scarce, industry and commerce have nearly ceased, and may be said that the people have barely a remarkable costum, which most probably is the cause of so much diseases and of their being so short lived."

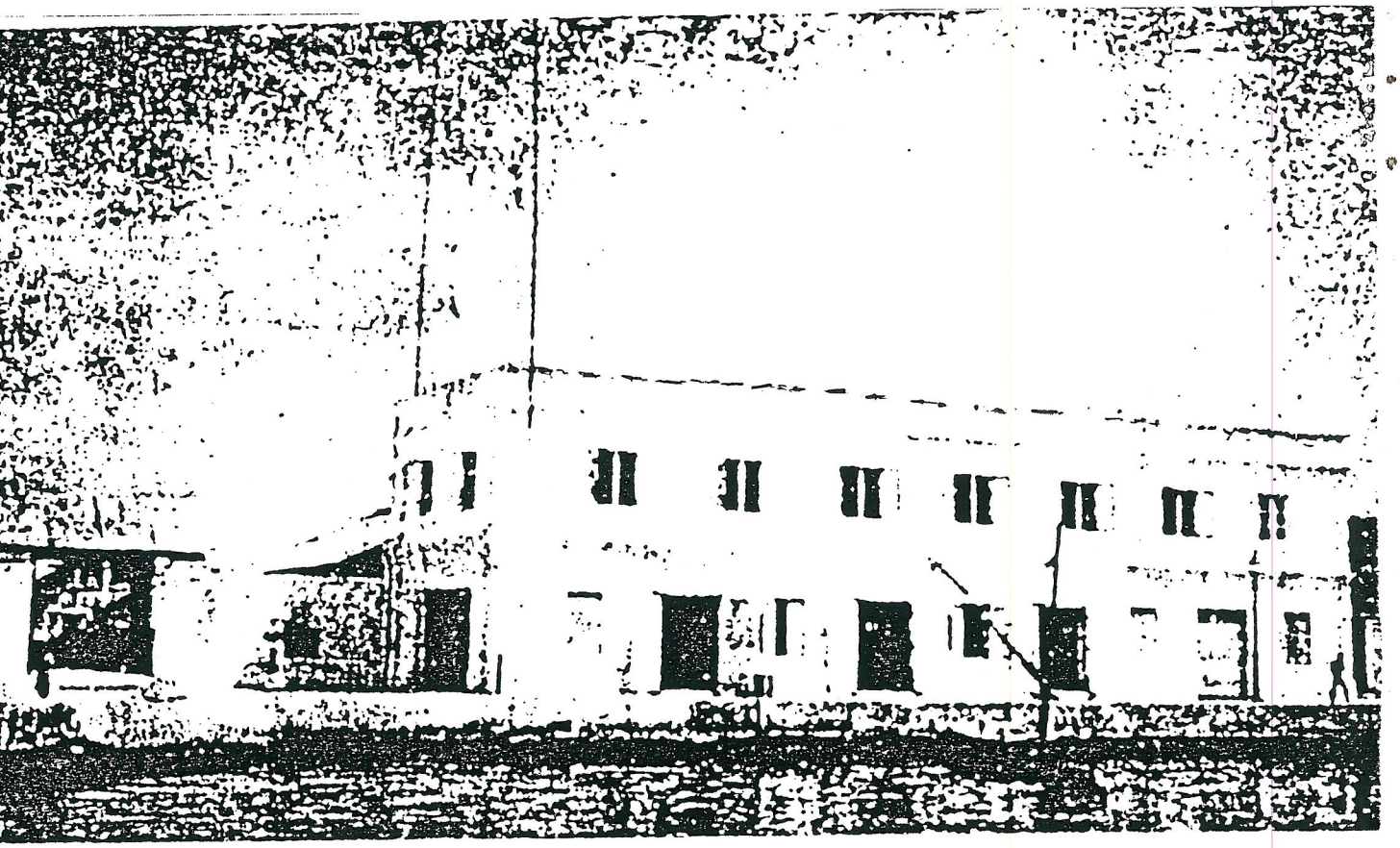
This traditions of theirs may be traced to simular traditions in ARABIA, from whence they have directly derived there religion. When we were at JUDDAH on the survey of the RED SEA. I have frquently heard from the higher classes the following story, which they all believe.

They relate: "That every stone of the CAHABA, in the holy tempel of MECCA, would one day be thrown down, and that every stone of it will be transferred from hand to hand to be thrown into the sea." The distance from MECCA to the Sea coast is thirty five miles, allowing men to stand three feet apart, it would require 71.400 men to do it, calculating the miles as nautical ones.

Amongst the Atolls we have surveyed, it has been a general remark that many of them are preceptibly working away, on some the Cocoa trees are actually in the sea, on others many of them have been entirely washed away, on one of these Islands at low water there is still to be seen the black soil matted with root of trees at least three hundred feet from the beach, which appear at one time to have been a part of the Island, but since overflowed by the sea, a considerable part of the South-East side of an Island in PHAID PHOLO Atoll [FAADHIPPOLHU] is washed away, an immense Banyan tree lies in the sea below high water mark, with its roots still freed in the earth.

That a part of the Islands has been washed away, the natives all agree in stating and also that in some instances they have increased on the opposite side, but not near to the extent they have been washed away, they say that many Islands have disappeared altogether, and for instance one near the Island of WARDOO [VAADHOO], belonging to the Atoll MILLA DOU MALOO [MILADHUNMADULU], leaving only a rocky shoal.

The opinion seems quite familiar to them that reefs have arisen out of the water, forming Islands complete in time with vegetation, one instance of an event of this kind is within the memory of the present inhabitants of MALE. Within the harbour of MALE there is a circular reef [FUNADHOO] the outer edge or rim of which, they say, in former days, had on the shoalest part two fathoms, the inside of the reef has six or



MALE. PRIME MINISTER OFFICE,
MINISTRY of HOME and EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
PHOTO. AMIN DIDI. 1949. VILGON Coll.

seven fathoms. The outer rim is now dry at low water and has several heavy anchors placed on it, for the vessels to make fast to during the South-West monsoon.

Another fact is worthy of being remarked, some of the outer edges of the Atolls, only a few yards from the fathomless sea, have been known to fall off into the sea, as much as half an Island at a time.

GOVERNMENT OF THE MALDIVES.

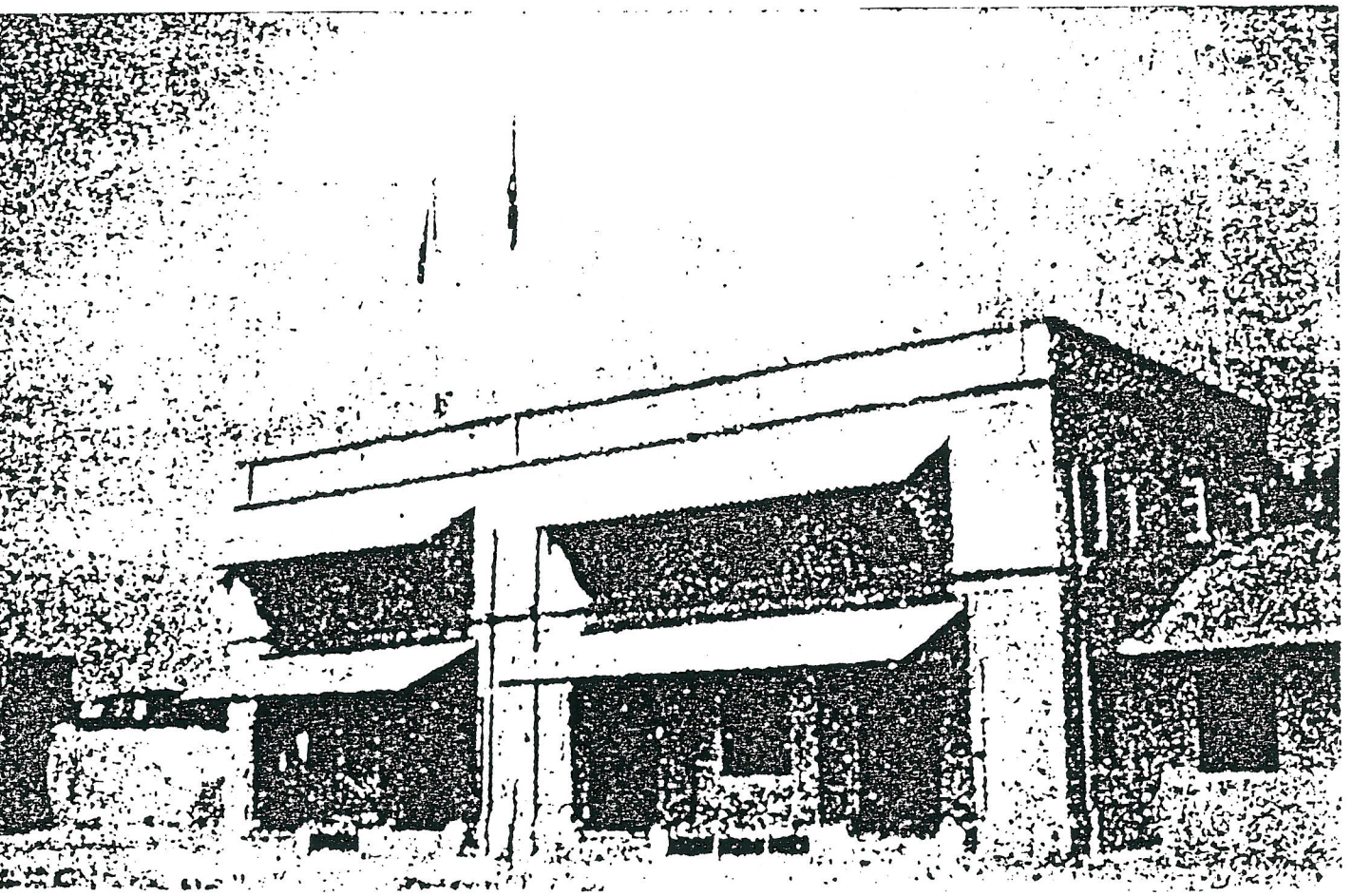
As far as we have had opportunities of judging the Government seems purely despotic, nevertheless it is said to be mild. The throne is hereditary and the SULTAN's sway is absolute over all the innumerable Islands which form the MALDIVIAN chain. His conuncil is composed of six Viziers who are termed the "Pillars of the State". Their designations are; 1) "DEERMINAH", 2) "ACCOURAH", 3) "WEELLAMAH", 4) "FOREMDERAH", 5) "MANFIE", 6) "DHANARAH". The [7] "INDEGHENY" is the Collector of Customs and Minister of Finance and the [8] "PANDIURE", who is the head of all Religion and Judicial matters [Muslim justice]. The last possesses great influence both over the SULTAN and people, the latter looking upon him as their protector. These ministers generally hold their situations for life.

The SULTAN considering his means maintains his dignity and state with very considerable splendour. The military guard of the Palace consist of forty men, whenever he goes out a part of them are always in attendance upon his person. He frequently attends the Mosque and also place of public amusement, such as Games and Shows etc. At such time he sits on a throne erected for the purpose and all show him every mark of respect and reverense, no one, not even those of the highest rank ever sit down in his presence. His dress is rich and handsome, it is often the fashion of the Mohammadans in INDIA and form a striking contrast to that of those about him, who are only permitted to wear in public a piece of cloth round the loins and a red handkerchief on the head.

The necessity for wearing this dress is I believe peculiar to MALE, for our Pilot, a native of MILLA DOU MADOW [MILADHUNMADULU Atoll], usually wore a blue cloth dress both on board the "BENARES" and on shore at other Island, but invaciably took it off previously to landing at MALE. I have said that the Government was despotic but mild. This mildness I can not but think arises from the indolent and passive, nor resistance of the people who seem to have lost all energy and submit without a struggle or a complaint to be impoverished by as harsh and selfish Government, which monopolizes nearly all the trade of the country, ignorance and apathy appears to form a strong trait in their character.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND PUNISHMENTS.

In the administration of justice, it does not appear that their laws are in accordance with the Mahomadan Law, as far as I could learn they are arbitory and inflicted by the will of the Monarch, but I had neither the time nor a sufficient knowledge of the language to make myself sufficiently well acquainted with the subject to give a decided opinion upon it.



MALE. THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.
PHOTO. AMIN DIDI. 1949. VILGON Coll.

Capital punishment seems never to be inflicted directly. For great crimes they banish the criminal to a barren Island where no food is to be found, and from which escape is next to impossible, and there he is left to die from starvation, should he however chance to get away alive, it is looked upon as an interposition of providence in his favour and he is pardoned. For secondary offences, the culpit is banished to some of the distant Islands, for minor offences they are punished by fine and sometimes by whipping. Criminals sentenced to banishment forfeit all their property to the SULTAN. This great temptations to get rid of any rich individuals they say is seldom abused, probably from their being so few men of prosperity except those of families too powerful to be easily dealt with in this way.

On the death of any servant of the Crown, his property belongs to the SULTAN, a part of it is frequently given to the family and it is custom to give the situation of the "Keltees" to the eldest son if he is supposed to be equal to the trust.

MILITARY.

There are no regular soldiers belonging to these Islands. But four fifths of the men on MALE are militia [300 to 500. L.Vilgon.] armed with muskets which are kept in very fair order. They have certain allowances from the SULTAN and take it by rotation to form the SULTAN's guard. The Islands are fond of military shows during the festivals, when the young men exhibit the sword and spear exercise, but they know but very little of the useful part to give and parry cuts, it consists almost entirely in showing off by flourishing their swords about and throwing themselves into attitudes. Indeed they have but little use for skill in arms, their quiet character saves them from civil broils and their unhealthy climate has prevented all possibility of any invaders from the continent forming a fixed settlement amongst them.

POPULATION.

We can not as yet form a correct opinion of the population if the whole of the Islands, that of MALE may be estimated at about two thousand, certainly not more, the women are more numerous than the men. The inhabitants of MALE are certainly more enlightened than those of the other Islands, but still the similarity is very great and they have not made sufficient progress in education as make so marked a difference as might have been expected.

EDUCATION.

On this head our information is too limited to form a correct judgement, but I believe it is about the least that can be given when children are taught to learn and write, they say that more women than men have attained that knowledge. On this subject should Lieutenant YOUNG and Midshipman CHRISTOPHER of the Bureau, who have volunteered to remain at MALE to study the language and to gain a more perfect knowledge of the country. Keep their health, we shall no doubt have from these enterprizing and intelligent young officers a very full account of the acquirements of these Islands.



MALDIVE WOMEN in TRADITIONAL DRESS.
PHOTO. 1971 S. PECHUROV. VILGON Coll.

TRADE.

My information on this subject was collected, principally from the Master and Nacquadors of the small craft who trade here from CHITTAGONG and other ports in the bay of BENGAL.

EXPORT. Fish, Coir, Tortoise-shell, Cocoanuts and Couries are the staple commodities of the Islands.

FISH. The Fish principally exported are the dried Bonito, I was readily informed that in 1824 seventy six Lacs [7,600,000 pieces] of it were carried away in English traders alone, a great part of this was sold on the West coast of SUMATRA, where they find a ready and profitable market. The value of a Lac of Fish at MALE is something under two thousand Rupees, and they get two thousand Dollars for it at SUMATRA. 1824 was an extraordinary year, fifty Lacs seem about the average for the export to SUMATRA, and it has been as low as ten Lacs. Fish is exported to various other ports in INDIA and CEYLON, but I do not know in what quantity.

COIR. The Coir of the MALDIVES is considered very superior to any in any other part of INDIA and that of TILLA DOU MATIS [THILADHUNMATHU] Atoll is said to be thirty per cent superior to that produced, on the other Atolls. The quantity exported I could not learn but it is very considerable, very little of it, if any, finds its way to one side of INDIA. There are I believe some duties upon its importation to protect the MALABARE Coir from which the Company draw some revenue. This is greatly to be regretted, as rope made from the beautiful fibres MALDIVA Coir is very superior indeed to that of MALABAR or even of the LACCADIVE, and I believe I am correct when I say that BOMBAY manufactured Coir rope is at present inferior to any other in INDIA. The CALCUTTA rope-walks sometimes furnish beautiful rope manufactured from the MALDIVIAN Coir, of which they import a good deal.

COCOANUTS. The Cocoanuts of these Islands are much prized by the natives of INDIA on account of the much greater length of time they will keep good for use than those of the Continent. They sell on the Island for one Rupee a Gootah, a Gootah is 12,000, but being so bulky an article, they do not afford much profit.

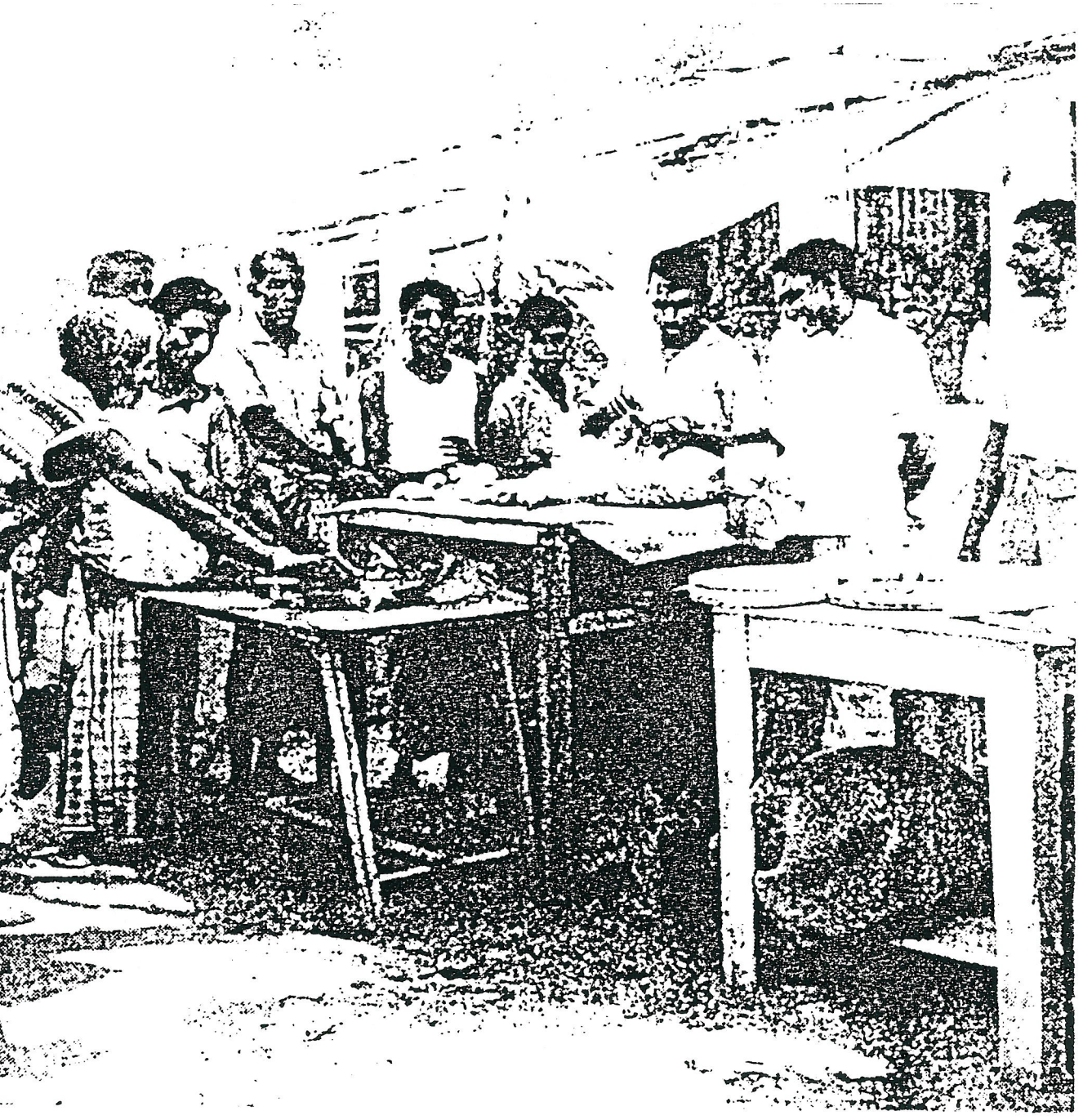
TORTOISE-SHELL. This article is exported in considerable quantities, the quality is reckoned good.

MATS. They work the small ornamental mats beautifully to any pattern, a few are exported and much prized, not more for their durability than their beauty.

[COURIES (Cowries) are not mentioned here by MORESBY. L.Vilgon.]

IMPORTS. Rice, Sugar, Betelnut, Tobacco and Crockery-ware etc.

RICE. This is the largest import, indeed the only one of any consequence which they depend on nearly for their support. When the Viziers were arguing with HAMED DEEDEE against any futther intercources



MALE. MARKET MERCHANTS.
PHOTO. 1971-3. PECHUROV. VILGON Coll.

with us, he said: "See how foolish you are, you are quite in their hands, they have only to stop the importation of rice and you must all starve or submit to them." This article is brought mostly from CALCUTTA and CHITTAGONG. At CHITTAGONG the merchant buys his rice for about eight Rupees per Candy [Candy ca 500 lbs ca 225 kg] and he barters it for return produce worth about sixteen Rupees which pays all his expenses and admits of a very handsome profit.

SUGAR. The article is but little in demand, as they use a sweet material called "Ghoor" which is extracted from the Cocoanut tree. The other imports mentioned are few in quantity and of the convenient quality.

COTTON. Must also be an import as they grow hardly any for use and they manufacture a good deal of their wearing apparel.

Much of the trade of these Islands is carried on by boots of their own which visit CALCUTTA and CHITTAGONG in considerable numbers. They also trade direct to some of the Eastern ports. A part also by a few small vessels of about 100 Tons under the ENGLISH flag. Some of these are commanded by Europeans and other by Nacquedars [Native skipper], there mode of trafficing is tedious but I believe lucrative. On their arrival they pay considerable port dues which are called "Peascuts". This done they are furnished with Godown. Having landed their goods, they then open their shops and they secure in line of their wares the produce of the Islands.

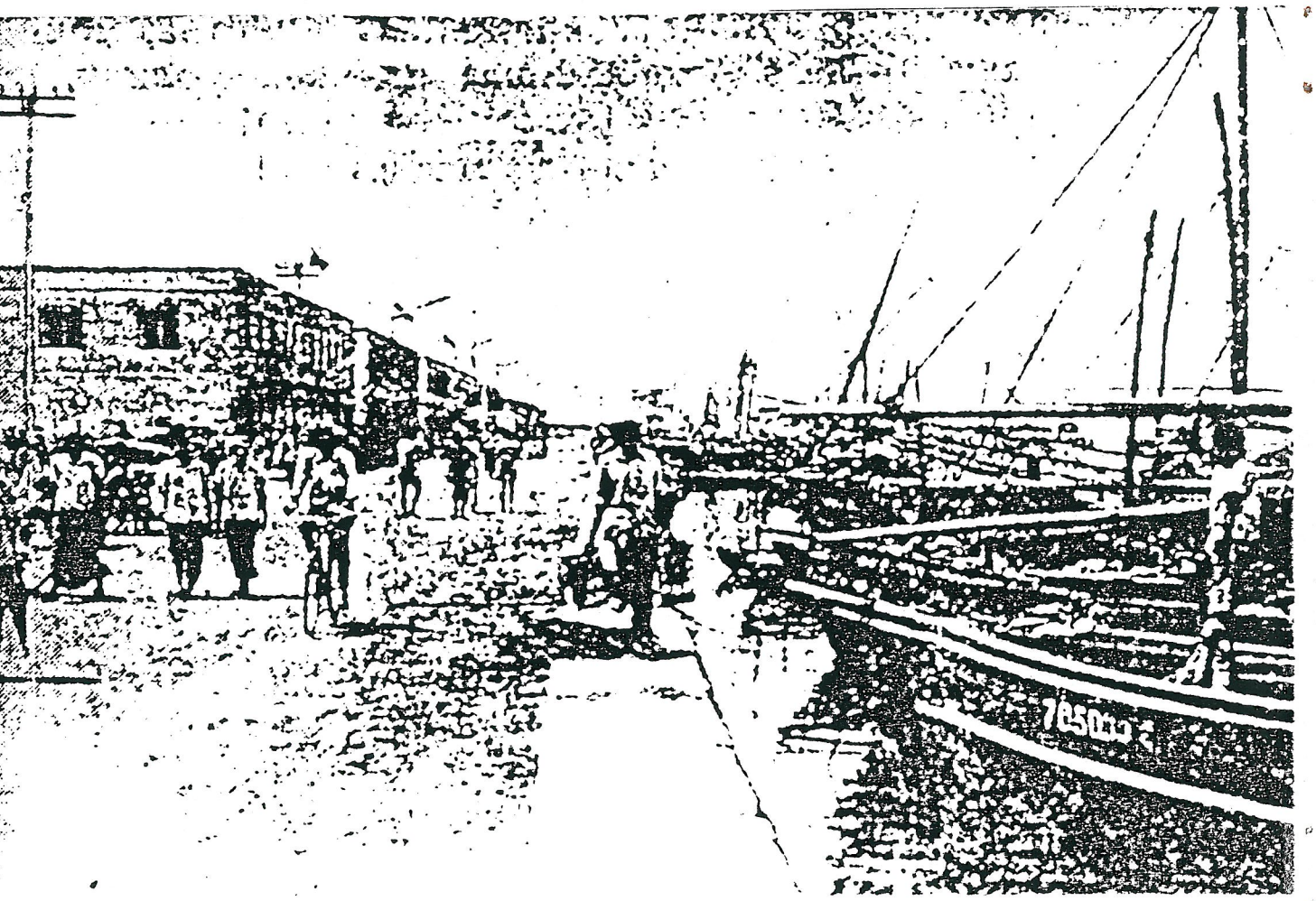
They are sometimes four or five months detained during which time they generally lose a part of their crew by sickness, about ten or twelve of these vessels may be employed annually on this trade. PYRARD [LAVALL] who was there in ..... [Open space. Shall be 1602-1607. L.Vilgon.] whose account being in the main accurate, though perhaps a little highly coloured, say, that in his time thirty or forty vessels landen with Couries and about one hundred with Cocoanuts annually left the Islands.

There can be no doubt but that the trade of these Islands as well as the population has greatly decreased within a century, because during my stay here, I met a man from CHITTAGONG who had been banished here for some offence twenty seven years ago, and had resided on the Island ever since. He told me that within that period both the trade and the number of people had decreased very much, the cause for which in my own opinion seems to be entirely in the despotic rule of an ignorant and selfish race of SULTANS, who think only of themselves and who monopolize all the trade of the Country.

MANUFACTURES.

They are not an industrious race, it may be perhaps that the monopolizing spirits of the Government checks the industry, for the beauty and durab....

[Here R. Moresby's "Report" ends in the middle of a word.] ***



MALE. BOATS for the ISLAND COMMUNICATION.
ADMINISTRATION and MINISTRY BUILDINGS left.
PHOTO. 1971-3. PECHUROV. VILGON Coll.

1835. MORESBY, ROBERT.

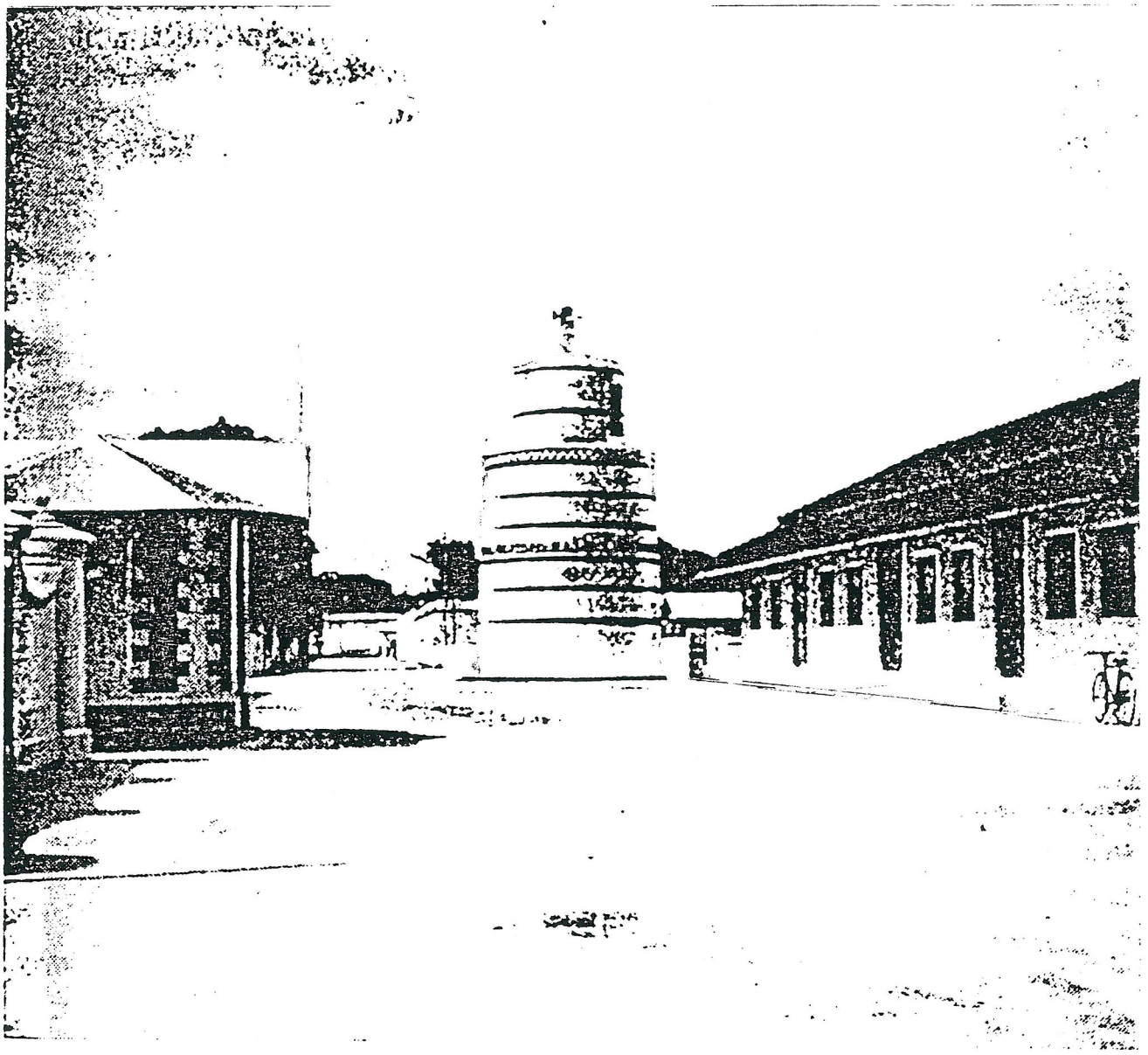
IN: Report in manuscript given by Commander Robert Moresby to the Honourable Company's Board in Bombay, 1835. The whole text, about 31,000 letters, presented here. [Two different copies.] Title: Description of Atoll MILLA DOU MADOU, one of the Northern Atolls of the Maldeeve Islands by Commander R. MORESBY, I. N. [ENGLISH]

IN: The Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London, Vol.5, Pages 398-404, London 1835. A shortened text, about 17,000 letters. Title: Extracts from Commander MORESBY's Report on the Northern Atolls of the MALDIVAS. Communicated by the Geographical Society of Bombay. [ENGLISH]

GEOGRAPHICAL SITE AND DESCRIPTION OF THE ATOLL.
MILLA DOU MADOU Atoll (Miladhunmadulu) extends from Latitude 5° 39' 00" to 6° 30' 30" North, and from Longitude 72° 57' 15" to 72° 29' 42" East. The length of the Atoll in a diagral or South-South-East direction is 58 Miles, and the greatest breadth 20 Miles. Its Easternmost ridge being 1 1/4, and its Western-most 33 Miles East of BOMBAY. It contains 101 Islands, 29 of which are inhabited and support a population of between 1,700 and 1,800 souls. The Islands are more numerous on the East or South-East part of the Atoll, the Western side having few Islands but more reefs. Between all the Islands and reefs which are not connected by any barrier reef, there are safe channels from 1 to 2 miles broad. The interior with the exception of the Southern part has few Islands and no dangerous reefs, and it is so clear of dangers that a ship might navigate through it at night with safety.

GEOGRAPHICAL SITE AND DESCRIPTION.
The Northern part is joined or connected with Atoll TILLA DOU MATE (Thila dhunmathi), which is in fact a continuation of the same Atoll. Why two names should be given to it I cannot tell, no channel with deep water or without soundings separate the two, but the same depths of water continuing throughout.

DEPTHS OF WATER &co.
The soundings commence on a line between the Islands or reefs forming the outer boundary, a few yards outside there being no bottom. The depth of water was generally from 20 to 25 fathoms, seldom more or less, the bottom being a smooth sand, clear of coral rocks or branch coral. There are not more than 5 or 6 sunken reefs, and most of these have sufficient water upon them for ships to pass over, in a distance of 50 Miles. Those that surround the Islands as well as those on the edge of the Atoll, have 20 fathoms close to them and are all above water at spring tides. In only one instance did we get any bottom up with the anchor, which being on Male Atoll does not come under the description of this. I have



MALE. MINARET and MAUSOLEUM of
ABU AL BARAKAT YUSUF AL BARBARI.
PHOTO. 1971-3. PECHUROV. VILGON Coll.

presented the sand or clay which contained some particles of black stone.

DESCRIPTION OF THE LANDS.
The Islands although low, being covered with cocoanut trees, may be seen from the masthead at a distance of 15 Miles, they all present the same appearance, a tuft or line of trees on the water, and are so exactly similar in soil and vegetable produce, that the description of one will answere for the whole.

They are generally very small, the largest not more than 2 Miles long by one broad, and the majority about one third that size. Few of them contain more than 100 and seldom less than 20 inhabitants. 21 of the whole number have lagoons either in the centre of the Island, or formed partly by the Island themselves and partly by a contiguos reef. In many there is an apppearence of, their having formerly existed, and gradually dried up. [NOTE No. 1.]

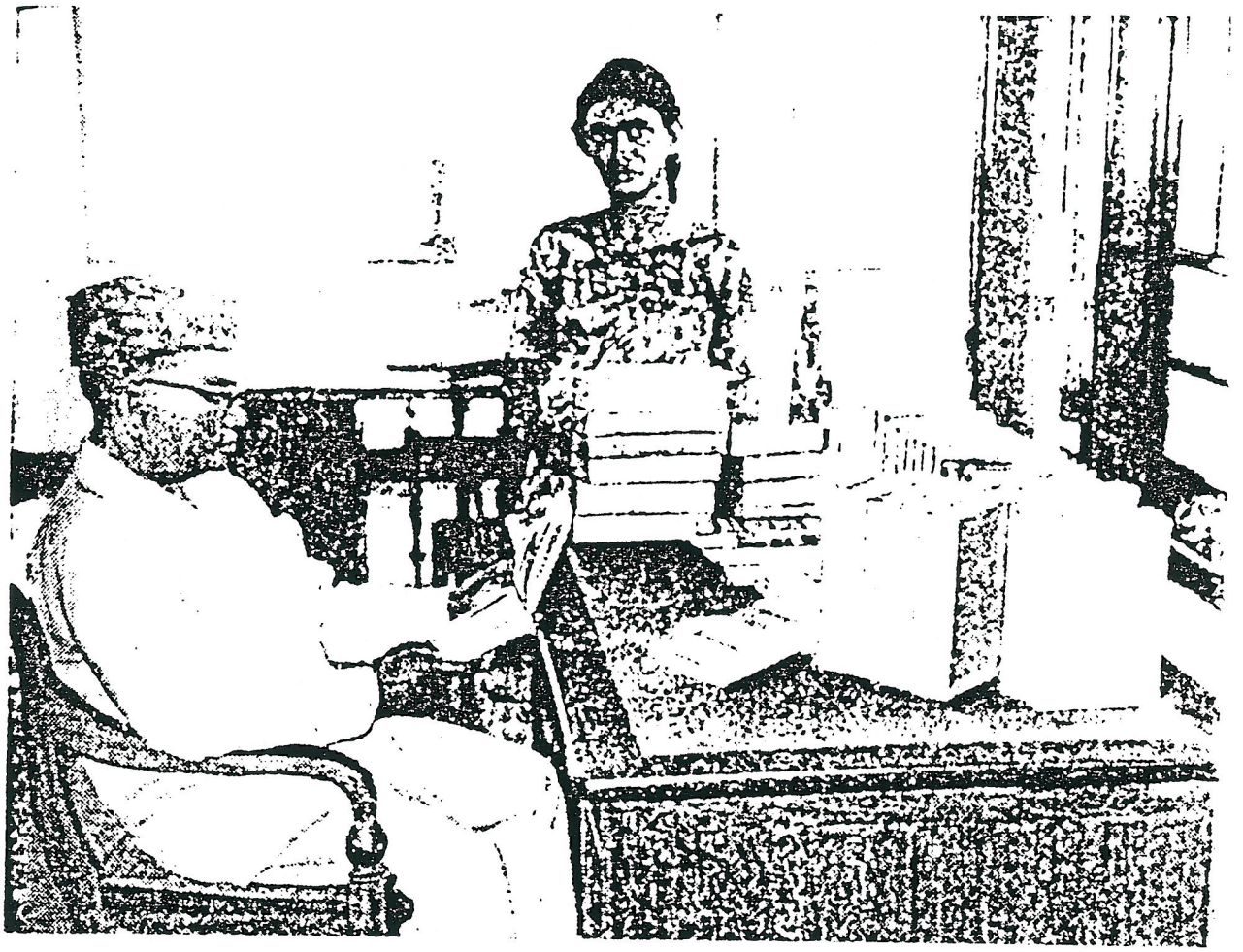
GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.
Upon examination the Islands were found to be composed entirely of sand and sandstone, the highest part about 6 feet above water, the upper layer to the depth of three feet, is sand mixed upon the surface with decayed vegetable matter, which forms a light black sandy soil apparently well fitted for cultivation. Below this a stratum of soft sandstone, about 2 feet thick is found, and then another bed of lose sand in which fresh water makes its appearence.

SANDSTONE.
This soft sandstone appearently formed from the beach sand, which is composed of broken shells and coral. When exposed to the air becomes hard, sonorous, and blackened on the surface, and frequently on the black looks as if vitrified. It is often used by the Natives for building. To obtain it they remove the sand, and cut it out in square masses, but if left exposed for a few days to the action of the air, it becomes too hard for these simple people to work. Sometimes it is seen lying on the beach in flat slabs of a large size, but in general is covered to the depth of several feet by the sand and coral rock thrown up by the waves.

Another singular circumstance observable on the shores of these Islands, is the amalgamation of pieces of broken coral, sticks, cocoanut shells &co. by what process it takes place I know not, unless by a chemical action caused by the fresh water, which must be constantly draining through the beach.

BRANCH CORAL.
The branch or tree coral found on the reefs, is very diminutive, growing in mere tufts on a hard base of sandstone, and not in large masses like found in the READ SEA, where it frequently presents the appearance of an extensive shrubbery under water.

INHABITANTS. COLOUR. STATURE.
With regard to the inhabitants, I cannot recollect any particular caste of INDIANs that they can be compared with. In features many slightly



MALE. PUBLIC LIBRARY
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PHOTO. 1971-3. PECHUROV. VILGON Coll.

resemble the ARAB, but the complexion although sometimes of a copper colour, is generally dark, like the Native of CEYLON, or the MALABAR coast, their stature varies from 5 feet 2 inch to 5 feet 4 inch the women being taller [must be "smaller"] in proportion than the men, who are hard featured and look much weather beaten. In most, the head is highest at the crown and much flatenend at the sides, the hair straight and strong when allowed to grow, the eyes dark, and the figure rather spare, evincing the possession of considerable activity without much physical strength. Few individuals are seen amongst them that have attained the age of 50 years, many are lame, blind, and deaf, and children are generally poor and emaciated. [NOTE No. 2.]

FEMALES.
We could scarcely ever obtain more than a distant view of the females, as on the approach of a EUROPEAN, they run into their houses and close the doors. The few I met were plain and extremely dirty, both in their persons and dress.

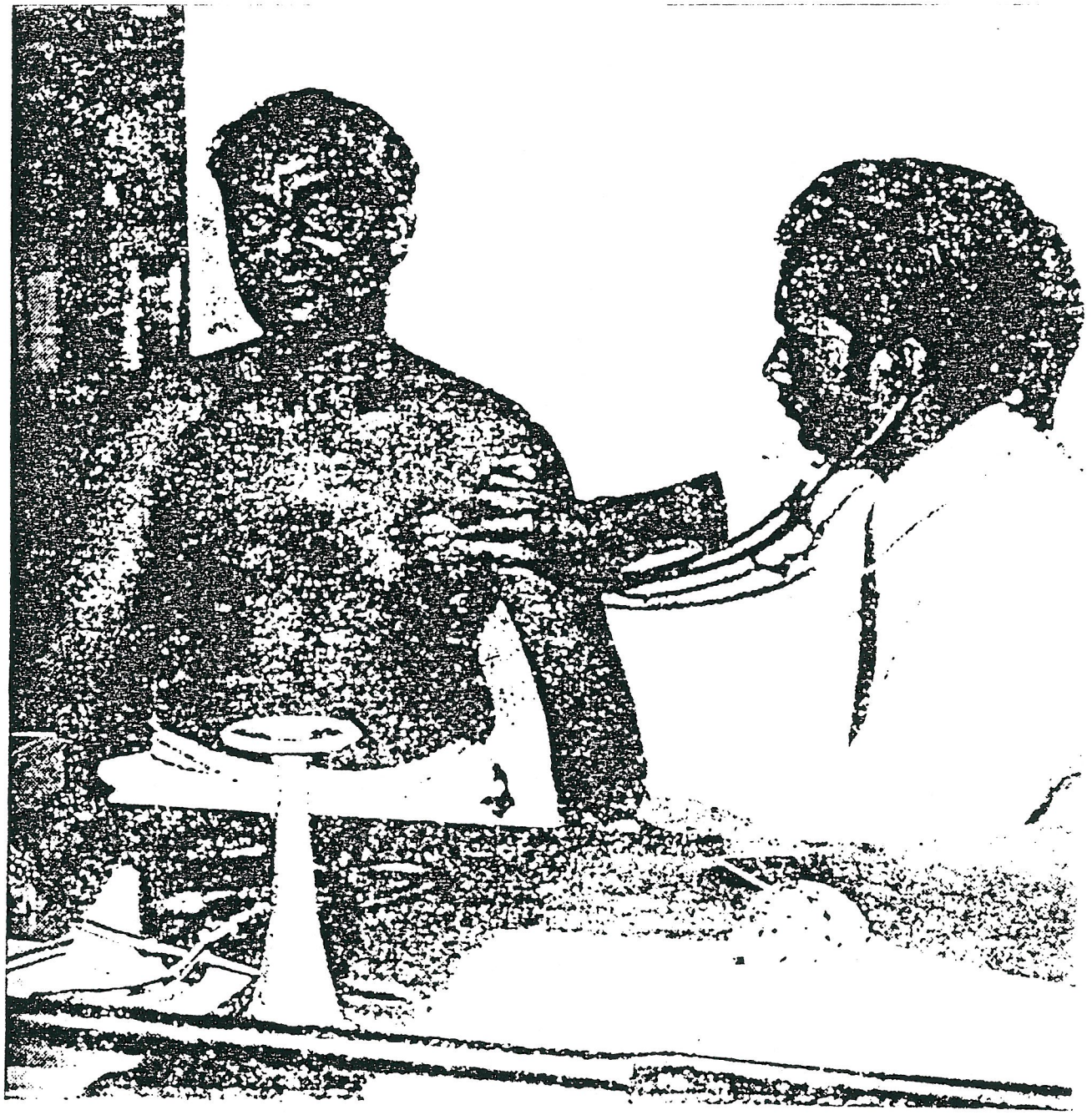
DRESS OF THE MEN.
The dress of the men is generally a coarse white cloth wrapped round the loins, and a smaller piece, or a common red cotton handkerchief round the head. Some whose means are perhaps better than others wear also a piece round the shoulders. They all shave their heads, but some allow the beard and moustaches to grow. [NOTE No. 3.]

DRESS OF THE WOMEN.
The dress of the females consists of a gown of coloured cloth reaching from the waist to the knees, below which an under-garment of blue check is visible, and a short close bobbinet of the same materials covering the upper part of the body. The hair is fastened in a large knot on the crown of the head, which has an unsightly appearance, and earrings, bracelets, beads &co. are worn by all who can afford to purchase them. [NOTE No. 4.]

CHARACTER.
As far sa we had opportunity of judging, they, appear on extremely ignorant, indolent, timid, and suspicious race, but perfectly docile, and inoffensive, living appearently in great harmony with each other. This may be inferred from the rare appearance of an Executive Government in the Atoll, and the little necessity that evidently exists for one crime of any magnitude do not I believe often occure.

With foreigners they have little or no intercourse, and they seem not to have imbibed an idea beyond that of raising sufficient produce for their subsistance. Indolence is a marked feature in their character, to a common observer they appear almost without occupation, for on visiting any of their villages, you generally see the men lounging about in a state of sluggish inactivity and the women sitting in a swing attached to the branches of a tree near their huts playing with their children. [NOTE No. 5.]

FOOD.
Their diet is simple, a few fishes grilled on bambo skewers, and unleavened bread forming their usual meal. The bread is made from grated



MALE. HOSPITAL with MALDIVE DOCTOR,
EDUCATED IN St.PETERSBURG. RUSSIA.
PHOTO. 1971-3. PECHUROV. VILGON Coll.

cocoanuts and a root called Stelpool, which when scraped and throughly dried in the sun, resembles Arrow-root. Cocoanut sugar is addid to make it palatable, and it is then fried in cocoanut-oil. We occasionally used the Stelpool in lieu of flour, and found it light and wholsome. Rice, their favourite food, is an article of luxury which excepting the more wealthy they do not often obtain, as a substitute a kind of grain is used called Bimbee, produced upon most of the Atolls but not on this.

The Bonita, almost the only fish of any size caught about these Islands, when boiled in salt water and dried becomes an important article of consumption, the Natives are extremely partial to it but we found it hard tasteless and indigestible. Poultry although in abundance they seldom kill, keeping them for the eggs, and fruits esculent vegetables &co, are so scarce that they can scarcely be included in the list of articles of subsistence.

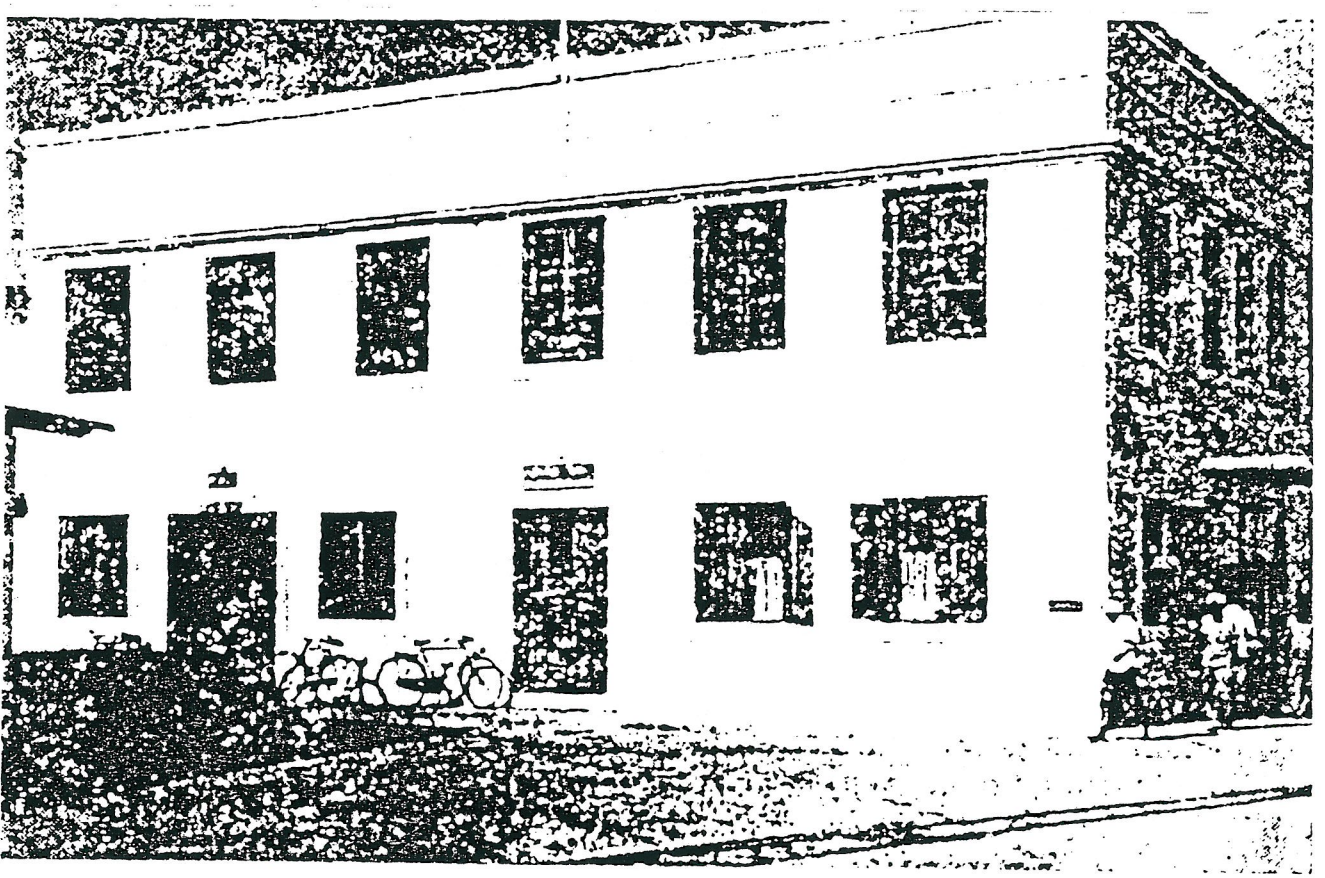
HABITS.
Both men and women chew the Betel-leaf and Areka-nut, the former in such quantities as to injure the teeth, and cause them to proteude from the gums in a most disgusting manner although excessively partial to tobacco, they never smoke, but use it in the form of snuff. Tea made very sweet is a favorite beverage, but coffee, which they do not appear to like is seldom drank. As far as we could learn, they never indulge in the use of ardent spirit, at least no requisition was ever made for that when they visited the ship.

HOUSES.
The houses which are neat and well constructed, are built of rafters, with mat walls and cadian roofs. Some of them have a compound 40 or 50 Yards square inclosed by mats, and all have a much greater appearance of cleanliness and comfort, than is usually observed about those of the poorer classes in INDIA. A few culinary utensils, with rude couches formed of sticks and matting, are all the articles of furniture or domestic use we noticed.

STOREHOUSES.
To secure there stocks of grain &co, from the depredations of rats, they build storehouses either upon piles in the wather close to the beach, or raised a few feet from the ground, of thick cocoanut planks, which are sufficiently hard to prevent the rats from penetrating.

RELIGION.
The Mahommedan religion, conformable to the sect Saunits (Sunnit), is professed throughout the Islands, although particularly strict in observing the fast and festivals, especially the Ramazan. But few of the inhabitants of this Atoll have performed the pilgrimage to MECCA or the thomb of the Prophet, as enjoined by the founder of their faith, which as much devotion and piety, they have perhaps less bigotry and superstition in their character, than is generally found in other Mohammedan countries.

MOSQUES.
Their mosques are small buildings surrounded by enclosed burying grounds, situated in some secluded spot, a short distance from the



MALE. MAJLIS BUILDING.
PHOTO. 1971-3. PECHUROV. VILGON Coll.

village. They are constructed of wood, upon a platform of sandstone boarded over, and thatched with leaves. [NOTE No. 6.]

WELLS.
In the yards there are always 2 or 3 wells of good water for ablution, from which as it invariably proved the best. We with the coneurrence of the Natives obtained our supplies of that necessary article. The grave-stones neatly cut out of a species of compact white coral like marble, are very similar to those seen in an ENGLISH churchyard.

GOVERNMENT.
The supreme authority, in this extensive group of Islands is vested in a single induvidual, who resides at MALE or KUNGS ISLAND, with the style and title of "SULTAN of the MALDIVES". Each Atoll is governed by a Naib or Bueray [Deputy governor], who likewise resides at MALE, visiting his district, as it may be requisite once or twice during the year.

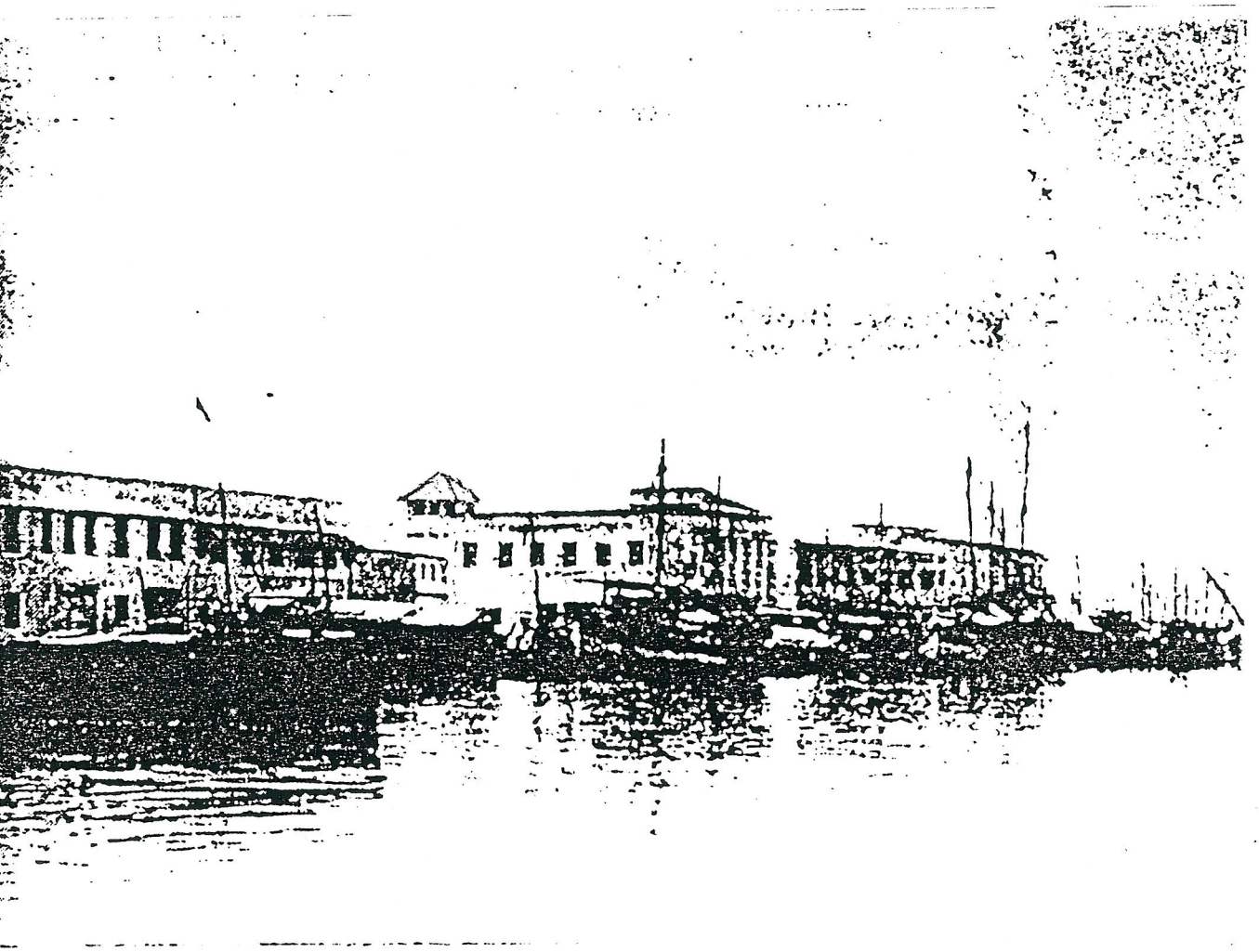
Under him there is a deputy or chief local magistrate, called the Atoll Wharry who takes cognizance of all offences, and collects the yearly revenue. Besides this officer there is a Catibe or head man upon every Island where the number of inhabitants amounts to 40. He officiates as Mollah at the Mosque, regulates and superindends all religious ceremonie, and acts as arbitrator in the trifling disputes that sometimes occur.

REVENUE.
The principle sources of revenue are derived from cocoanut, coir, coarse cloth, and cowries. A portion of their produce is paid annually to the SULTAN, and for the remainder they appearently receive rice and cloth in exchange, at an exhorbitant valuation. An agent from MALE accompanied by the Atoll Wharry, proceeds yearly to all the inhabited Islands to receive the contributions of each. The assessment having previously been fixed by the SULTAN, who occasionally sends a deputation of officers to the subordinate Atolls for that purpose.

Information sufficient to form an estimate of the amount of taxes paid by this Atoll to the MALE Government could not be obtained, but as it is all derived from landed produce, which here does not depend much upon cultivation, it cannot fluctuate much, or amount to any thing considerabler.

VEGETATION.
All the islands are covered with a thick jungle of bushwood, extending in many places to the waters edge, and extensive groves of Cocoanut and other large trees. Amongst these are found the Banyan, Talipot, Bread fruit, Fig, and various others to us unknown and occasionally the Plantain, Pappaye, Bamboo, Tamarind, and Nebecky, producing a small fruit common in ARABIA, on some of the Islands we observed a few plants of Sugar-cane, Indian core, and Cotton. [NOTE No. 7.]

GRASS.
Whereever the jungle had been cleared, grass of a rich and luxurious growth. The chief cause of this exhuberance of vegetation may be attributed to the quantity of moisture constantly kept upon the ground,



MALE PORT with WATCH TOWER.
PHOTO. 1971-3. PECHUROV. VILGON Coll.

for although during the North-East monsoon some time may elapse without any rain falling. The thick spreading foliage of the trees effectually prevents it from becoming dry or parched althrough they have but few esculent vegetables. The sandy soil appears favorable for their production. 8 or 10 kinds (of vegetables) springing up in a short time from some seed sown by us. The Natives are known too indolent to avail themselves of its fertility, there not being more than 10 or 12 acres of ground cultivated throughout the Atoll.

FRESH WATER.
Upon nearly all Islands fresh water can be obtained, but on some is indifferent, and it is not an uncommon circumstance to find wells of brackish water within a few feet of others, where it is exellent. They are generally faced with sandstone about 6 feet deep, and have a cocoanut cup attached for the convenience of visitors. The water kept well in the iron tanks of the "BENARES", but in the casks of the Tender ["MALDIVA"], become putrid and was supposed to disagree with the crew, this however wants confirmation.

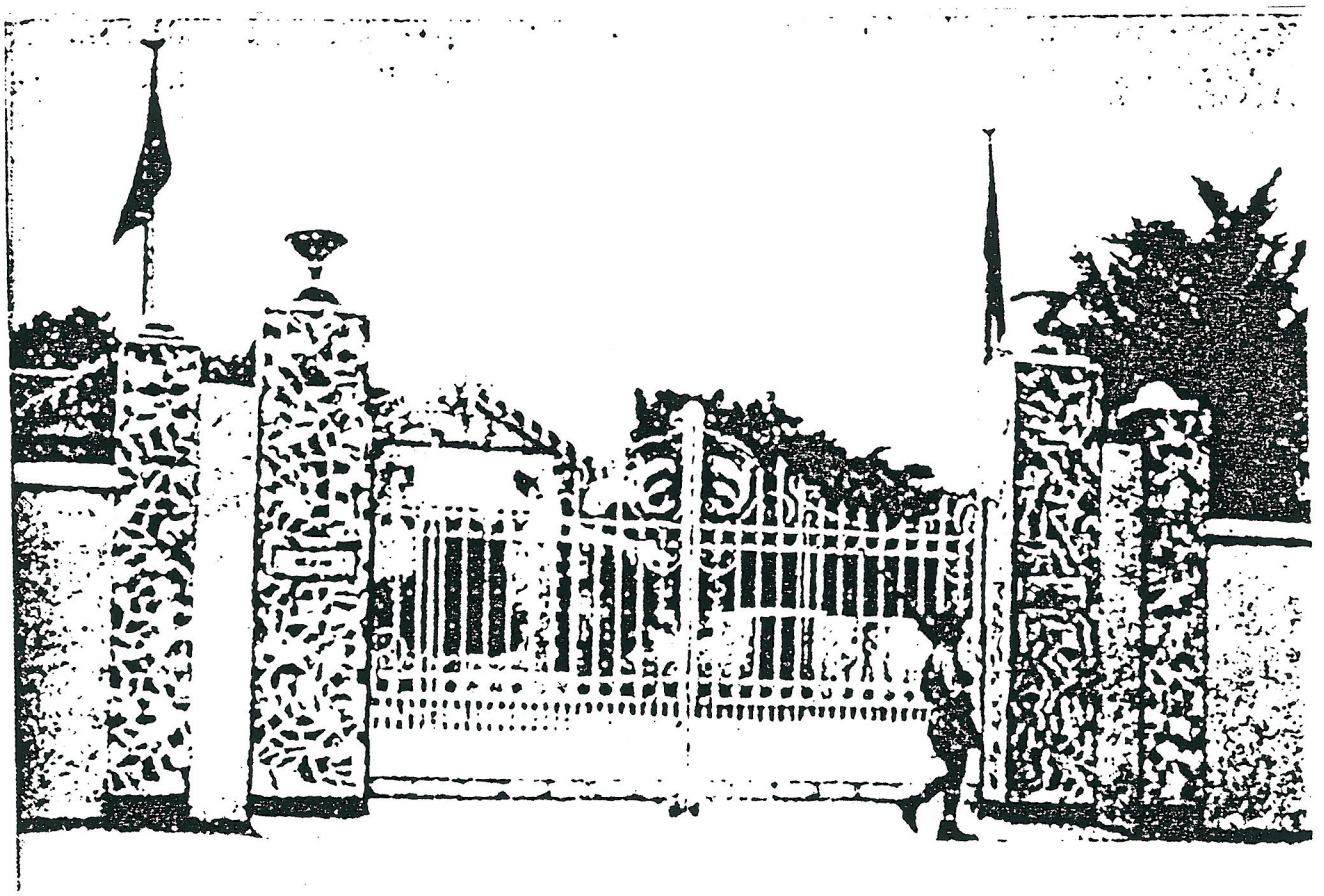
Notwithstanding the abundance of this element a ship will not always be able to procure a sufficient supply without difficulty, from the hollow rocky nature of the reefs surrounding the Islands, which prevent the approach of boats to the shore excepting where channels have been cut. And the distance of the wells from the beach much likewise depends upon the state of the wind and weather, and it would in general be advisable to gain from the Natives, who are always ready to assist with their boats, information as to the safest anchorage, where it can most easily be obtained. [NOTE No. 8.]

FIREWOOD.
Firewodd may be procured in any quantity throughout the Atolls.

PRODUCE.
Cocoanuts form the principal, and I believe only article produced upon these Islands, that becomes of any consequence in a commercial point of view. They are a much smaller species than those grown in INDIA, but the Coir is longer, whiter, of a fine texture, and very strong. The operation of preparing it is extremely simple. The husk being left upon the coral reefs, or in pits until the vegetable matter has entirely decayed, and then beaten with a stick to separate the fibres. These are divided into two sorts, Coarse and Fine, and worked up into yarn by the Natives, who in the process always waste a considerable portion. 100 cocoanuts may be purchased for one Rupee, and 20 Libs. of Coir yarn for 10 or 12 Libs. of Rice.

TODDY.
The Toddy produced by this variety is very different from that produced in INDIA, becoming a few hours after it has been drawn off, extremely sweet and possessing no intoxicating qualities. By boiling it yields a large quantity of thick syrup, and from this a kind of whitish sugar is extracted.

OIL.
Oil (from the cocoanuts) used by them as an article of food in lieu of



GATE to the SULTAN PALACE. MALE.
PHOTO. 1971-3. PECHUROV. VILGON Coll.

ghee, is only made in sufficient quantities for their own consumption.

COTTON.
Cotton is cultivated in small patches upon some of the Islands of this Atoll, but the greater part comes from MALE.

ANIMALS.
No cattle, sheep or other animals excepting cats and rats have been seen, the latter are so numerous that they may be observed at all times, running about the Cocoanut trees, which are generally defended from their attacks by large bunches of leaves tied round the trunk.

BIRDS and DOMESTIC FOWL.
The common domestic fowl is found in abundance throughout the jungles, they are however extremely wild and by no means easily procured. From the great difficulty in catching them, our fishing net was often in request for that purpose. The Natives never objected to our shooting them, but this from the thickness of the cover through which they run is rather an arduous task.

Crows and Flying Foxes are numerous and said to be very destructive to the young Cocoanuts but of the smaller birds only two kinds were seen, the Indian Cuckoo and Land Rail. Water fowl are more plentiful, consisting of Grey Curlow, Sea Plovers, Sand Pipers, and several varities of the Crane, Gull, and Small, a tropical bird called by the sailors the Boats-wain.

REPTILES.
Of reptiles there are only a few Snakes about 2 feet long and of a brown color but said by the Natives to be very poisonous and numerous Lizards of a species common in INDIA.

INCECTS.
Ants, black, red, and white, are seen in great numbers, and a few butterflies and beetles.

FISH.
During the season large quantities of Bonetas called "Goomlee Much" (Combali Mas), are caught and preserved by boiling in salt water and drying in the sun. Other kinds are extremely scarce, so much so that we were seldom able to procure any for our table, those caught by the Natives for daily consumption being small and indifferent.

TURTLE.
Turtle of two kinds are found that generally used as an article of food, and another much smaller, from which Tortoise shell is obtained. Formerly they resorted to the Islands in great numbers, but of late years have considerably decreased. They are either taken at night in the act of depositing their eggs upon the beach, or in calm weather when the water is sufficiently smooth to allow of their being seen upon the banks, in 7 or 8 fathoms, with a line and several hooks, which are lowered down and hooked into the flipper.



MALDIVE ISLAND. SEA and PALMS.
PHOTO. KASSIS 1962. VILGON Coll.

METHOD OF TAKING THE SHELL.
The method persued by the Natives in peeling off the Shell is extremely cruel. Whilst alive the back of the turtle is covered with burning charcoal, which causes the outward covering to curl upwards, it is them forced off with a knife, and before it becomes cold flattened between boards. After this barbarous process the animal is suffered to regain its native element, where after a certain time a new shell is formed, it is however too thin to be of any service, and the animal always appear languishing and sickly. [NOTE No. 9.]

ARTIFICERS.
On most of the Islands, there are two or three boat builders, turners, who twin a few rough articles for household use, and a blacksmith, but in none of these occupations do they seen to have much employment. There are also weavers, and ropemakers. The former work up a small quantity of cotton into coarse cloth, and the latter are very expert in manufacturing the coir into various kinds of small rope. Artificers not so often or so generally required, such as goldsmiths, carpenters &co. visit the Atolls in succession, travelling in large boats with all their tools &co, and remaining at each as long as they can obtain employment.

BOATS.
In this Atoll they have no boats of a size sufficient for trading purposes, those employed in the communication with the other Atolls, being common fishing boats with their sides built up with plank and matting, and a temporary deck of rafters, supporting on the after part a thatched house. In form they are very beautiful, generally from 25 to 35 feet long, with the greatest beam, which is nearly amidships, about one third the length, the stern and bow round, and much hollowed out towards the reel.

The floor is flat until it approaches the centre, where it decends in a sharp curve to the kelson, and the stern raises in a curve to a sapired point 5 or 6 feet abowe the gunwale. They are constructed of cocoanut planks, smooth and hard but very heavy, about 6 inches broad and 2 thick. These are kept in their proper places by cross beams rising one above the other, and fastened at every 6 inches with thick wooden pegs. These boats are strong, but from the quantity of material used in them construction very heavy, and will last, the natives say, 12 or 14 years.

A single mast rather longer than the boat, supports a yard and square sail of fine matting, the latter having 10 or 12 reefs in it. To preserve the bottom, it is covered with a black paint made from the burnt husk and oil of the cocoanut, and the upper part which near the bow and stern is nearly marked in fancy work, is ornamented with streaks of red, white and yellow. They are steered by a rudder fitting the curve of the stern port, and sail well, but beeing so low and heavy, would in tempertuous weather, which I imagine the Natives seldom venture to encounter, stand a great chance of being swamped.

SMALL BOATS AND CATAMARANS.
Small boats and Catamarans are much used for fishing on the coral reefs. The former are built of very light wood, and not above 8 or 10 feet long, and the latter (probably rafts) may be observed clustering round



MALDIVE BOYS PLAYING LAND HOCKEY.
PHOTO. KASSIS 1962. VILGON Coll.

the reefs on a calm morning, their crews appearing as if they were standing on the surface of the water. [NOTE No. 10.]

CLIMATE.
In December, January and part of February moderate breezes prevailed from North-North-East to East-North-East, with cool pleasant weather, and occasionally a few showers of rain. During the North-East monsoon the cimate is generally dry and pleasant, the thermometer ranging in the day from 80° to 84°, the atmosphere is clear, seldom obscured by clouds and but little dew falls excepting when calms are prevalent.

HEALTHYNESS AND CLIMATE.
It was with considerable difficulty that any correct information was obtained from the Natives, respecting the unhealthiness of these Islands. That they are so at certain periods is evident, not only from our own experience, but from the yearly mortality, which the crowded state of the numerous burying-grounds proves must be very great, and the shortness of life, which is racely (raze) extended to so long a period as 50 years.

At MANADER [MANADHOO, MILADHUNMADULU SOUTH ATOLL] Island containing 100 inhabitants, the Catibe told us fevers were sometimes to prevalent that they could not find men sufficient to man a boat, and sickness frequently spreads to such an alarming extent amongst the Islands, that a strict quarantine is enforced at MALE against the crews of all boats coming from them, who are not permitted to land until they have been examined by the proper authority. As this regulation extends to foreign vessels it is at all times difficult to procure a pilot, for nothing will induce them to come on board until they have ascertained where the vessel has come from, and the healthiness of her crew.

From the report of the Natives the North-East monsoon is the sickly season, and this is probably the case, for the surveying vessels had not been above a month in the Atoll before Berryberry broke out and carried off four Lascars. This disease which appears in a form very similar to Dropsy, being always accompanied by a general swelling of the legs and body, was succeded by vivolent bowel complaints, so acute in some instances. The patients life was only saved by immediate and profuse bleeding.

HEALTHYNESS onboard the "BENARES" (Spring 1835).
In the short space of 35 days, 8 more men were buried, and the sickness still increasing. Obliged us to proceed to the coast of INDIES for a change of climate a few days after our departure it began gradually to abate, but the convalesent were invariably left for a long time in a very weak and reduced condition. Every precaution was taken upon our arrival at the Atoll to preserve the health of the ships company by giving them every possible indulgence, to the Lascars especially an extra allowance of provision and a small quantity of liquor daily was issued. The latter having always been found of great use in the prevention or cure of this singular disease. ***

The "NOTES 1 to 10" are on the next three pages.



FIRST MALDIVE WOMAN TEACHER. CHABUBA.
PHOTO. KASSIS 1962. VILGON Coll.

"NOTES No. 1 to No. 10". Further information from another copy of the former "Report" by ROBERT MORESBY.

IN: Description of Atoll Milla Dou Madou, one of the Northern Atolls of the Maldive Islands. By Commander R. Moresby. I(ndian) N(avy). Pages 38-61. [ENGLISH]

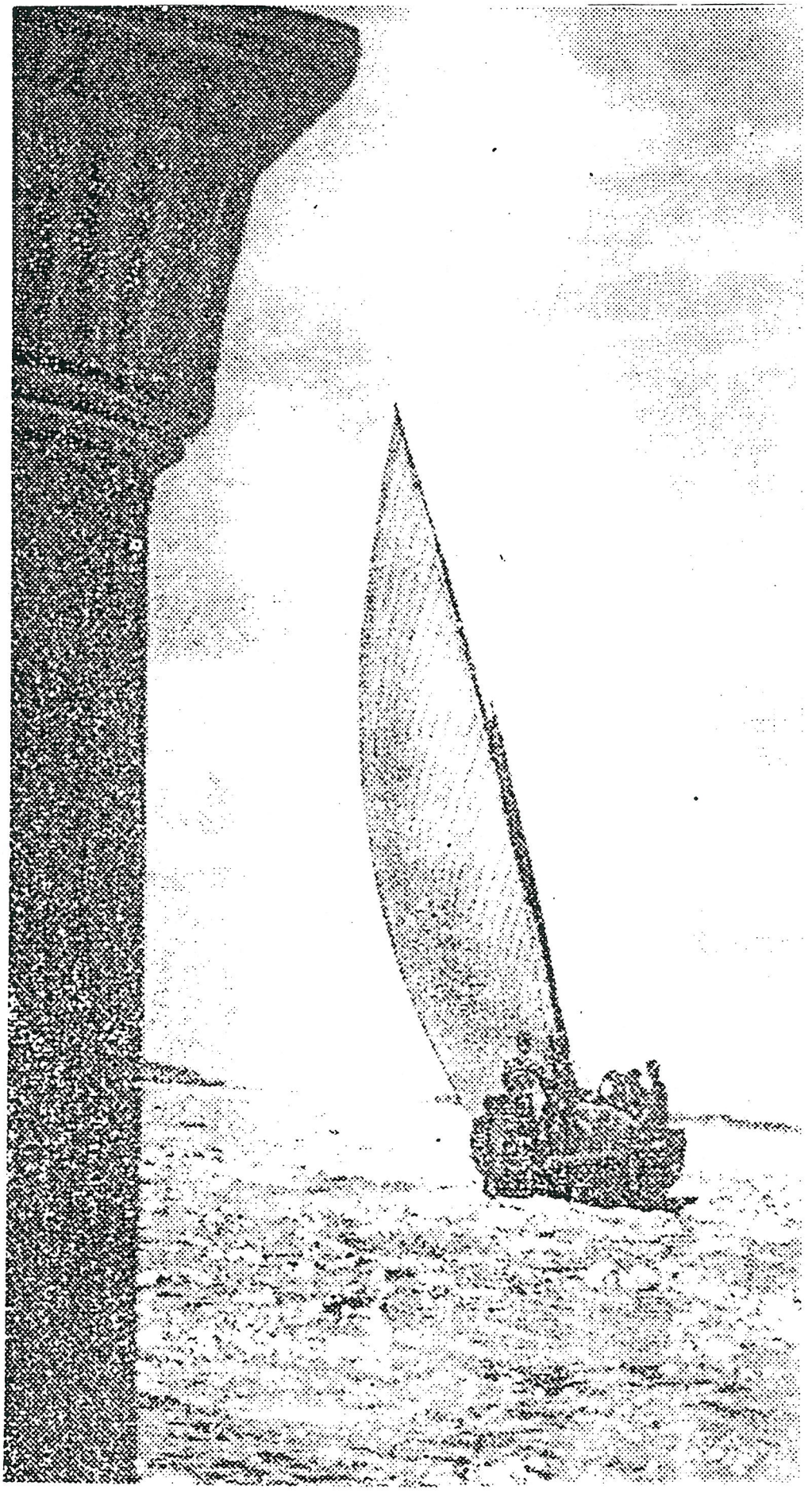
NOTE No. 1. [Page 53.]
Many of the Islands are more narrow strikes, 50 to 100 yards broad on the outer segment of a circle. The remaining part of the circle being a band of broken coral rock, dry at spring tides. The inner part of the circle having sometime considerable depth of water, from one to ten fathoms a perfect lagoon. Those Islands which fills the whole circle of coral reef, have deep water all round them. In some a shallow lagoon still exists and in almost all the traces of one. Few are without it. Those Islands, some of which are more strips on a segment, of the circular reefs, are found on the North-East sides of reefs, leaving the part or coral bond which is under water to the South-West.

NOTE No. 2. [Page 39.]
They [The Natives] never shift from Island to Island their residence, but remain stationary, occasionally visiting the uninhabited Islands to collect their produce. The head man or civil authorithy of the Atoll resides at the Island of RYMAGOR (FUNADHOO Atoll) in Latitude 6° 10' North near the Centre and East side of the Atoll. He is called the Atoll "Warry" or "Wherry" his duties those of Magistrate, Priest and Collector for Government at MALE. Nearly all the Islands have beside this principal authority, their induvidual head man, he is called the "Catib" or head of the Village, his duties those of Priest and Magistrate and has only nominal authority.

[Page 42.]
The men are generally all of low stature, hight varying from 5 feet 4 inch to 5 feet 8 inch. [Mark: 5'2" to 5'4" in Moresby's other papers.] Many of the their younger children are poor emanated creatures with large stomachs and emanated legs, brought on no doubt from bad food, one meal of rice a day bring a rose good treat.

[Pages 43.]
Their families do not appear to be numerous, seldom more than two or three children, though allowed a plurality of wives. Of their moral, characters &co. we cannot judge much. We never saw or heard of crime among them, all appear to be happy and contented and live on an equality. Little or no difference being observed either in their houses or dress and none in their intercourse among each other.

NOTE No. 3. [Page 40.]
The dress of the men is commonly a coars piece of dirty, white cotton cloth round the loins extending as far down as their knees. Their feet without sandals, their shoulders and bodies, necked exception extra ordenary occasion when they some times have a piece of white cotton cloth thrown over their sholders.



MALDIVE SAILING BOAT.
PHOTO. KASSIS 1962. VILGON Coll.

NOTE No. 3. [Page 41.]
Their heads are close shaven, not even Mahomeds hairlock left. Some wear mustachoes and beards, but not all. On their heads or round their temples they wear generally a coars, red checked, cotton, pocket handkerchief, sometimes a coars piece of dirty white cotton cloth.

NOTE No. 4. [Page 41.]
The females are generally disgusting dirty looking creatures. They were so shy we had little opportunity of making our remarks on them, some of them are of a light cooper colour, but generally much darker. The face rather round and flat, the mouth large and their hair tied up in a lose slavenly [?] way in a large knot on the top of the head, having no covering over it. Their dress a long gown of dirty red or blue check or chintz made to fit close to the neck covering the bosom, sholders, and part of the arms and reaching as far down as the knees, below which is seen the bottom of an under garment generally a dirty, blue, check.

[Page 43.]
Black long hair, straight and strong if allowed to grow, their eys dark. They can give no account of themselves, where they originally came from. They are extremely indolent and ignorant, timid and suspicious of strangers. They have very peculiar shaped heads very high in the crown or back part, from this to the forhead, which is low, is nearly a straight line, flattened on each side, leaving two large bumps just above their ears.

NOTE No. 5. [Page 44.]
Native boats from MALE also tread (trade) to this Atoll with Rice, Cloth, Tobaco, Arreca nuts &co. We found nothing peculiar in their customs from other Mohamedan nations of other countries and observed no ceremonies, festivals or amusements while we were among them. Their great delight appears to be sitting in a swing nearly the whole day. Opposite to every house there are one or two rope-swing attached to the hanging branches of trees. On the bottom of which is fixed a large wooden seat capable of holding one or two persons.

The women cook and look after the domestic affairs of their houses but they are generally found sitting in the swing playing with the children. The Native appear to have no more superstitions than other Musselmans.

NOTE No. 6. [Page 45.]
The burying ground and place of prayer is generally a secluded spot a little distance from the village, about 100 yards square free from trees and in the centre of which is a wooden house with a thatched roof having the floor raised above the ground by sandstones and boarded. At the top (of the floor) also covered with mats. This is their mosques or church. In the church-yard are generally one or two good wells for ablution with a paved road leading to the door of the church.

In all the church-yards we found a great number of grave stones, neatly cut and carved out of a fine species of compact white coral like white marble. Without polish the shape of the grave stone are like those in an English church-yard with the date and name of the individual deceased. A good road generally leads from the village to the burying ground.



MALDIVE WOMEN and CHILD. MAKING FOOD.
PHOTO. KASSIS 1962. VILGON Coll.

NOTE No. 7. [Page 47.]
As vegetable and fruit they have:
1. Bread fruit in plenty.; 2. Poppish a few.; 3. Chillis in plenty.; 4. Pompion a few.; 5. Plantain a few, seldom reapon.; 6. Lime a few.; 7. Somorinds a few.; 8.; Nibuku a few, a fruit like a Brab apple with a stone inside, very common in Arabia. A large species of Pohn, the fruit when ripe very large and yellow, look like an immense Pine (-cone), having numerous parts packed close together, separately covered over with thick close fibres like cocoanut coir. When these parts are separated the Natives divide them with the blow of an axe, when three or four small kernels are found in it the size, taste and shape of an almound, and exelent for food. The leave of this tree when young are of an enormous length from 18 to 28 feet long.

NOTE No. 8. [Page 58.]
Should a ship in distress for water, come into this Atoll at any season, she can be at no loss, after enquiring from the Natives the best and safest anchorage to obtain water, as the winds or weather may prevail. They are also willing to lend their assistance, both in men and boats.

Rice is the best payment for their work. We gave 25 lbs for 180 Gallons (of water) brought off in their own boats. Tobacco is also much in request amongst them. Rice is applied for by the Natives by measure, "BAMBOE" so called, is a measure in a large Cocoanut shell weighing 2 lbs. and 4 ounce. Tobacco by the "GHULL", which is 1/4 lbs. Coarse white Cloth and Butter is much used by them. Money is of little value I have generally found. The water after beeing kept on board some time perfectly free from any smell, but the "BENARES" water is kept in iron tanks may in some degree account for it.

NOTE No. 9. [Page 50.]
Lizards of one particular kind are very numerous. They are small and have a kind of comb on their head and back and long tails. They are of variegated colours under the throat, but more generally brown. They feed on Flies and Grasshoppers, and are very common in India. We found no quanta or camileous Butterflies only a few. Beetles none, except the large black Carpenter beetle.

NOTE No. 10. [Page 59.]
Pieces of wreck wood are seldom seen, and the Natives say many years have now elapsed since the wreck of a vessel. But on one of the Islands I found a few fathoms of Europe bolt rope in a Native house, and so fresh it looked. Certainly could not have left the vessel to which it belonged more than two or three months. On enquiry they told me it was parts of a sail attached to a yard, which they found a few mounth ago, drifting into the Atoll from the Westward. The yard I did not see but the bolt rope appeared to be that of a Top Gallant Sail or some such small Sail. Canoes frequently drift over from the coast of India. We never found any rocks or stones on the Islands, not being their formation.

[Page 60.]
Grapnels [Anchors] they have none, but they use a circulare piece of coral stone as an anchor, inserting a piece of wood through the centre of the stone to which they attached their cable. ***



MALE HARBOUR. MAJLIS HOUS left.
PHOTO. KASSIS 1962. VILGON Coll.

1838. MORESBY, ROBERT.

IN; Transactions of The Geographical Society, Vol.1, P.102-108,
Bombay 1836/38, N.E. 1844, Robert Moresby's Reports on the Maldivas,
(Moresby surveyed the Maldive Islands 1834-1837.) [ENGLISH]

TEXT;

INTRODUCTION.

Captain MORESBY's Reports on the Maldivas, having been, by the mission of Government, placed at the disposal of the Society, the Committee are enabled to submit the following summary of information regarding the present state of these Islands, extracted from the able documents, and from the papers furnished by Lieut. ROBINSON and Dr. CHAMPELL of the Honourable Company Ship "BENARES". Note; Since this report was drawn up, "The memoire on the inhabitants of the Maldivas", in the present number was received. Many statements in this survay, which appear as repetitions, will be explained by this circumstance, as it was considered advisable that Messrs. YOUNG's and CHRISTOPHER's papers should be printed unaltered.

A survey of this chain of coral islands, which extending from 7° 07' N. Latitude to 0° 40' S. Latitude, cross the track of our trade to India, has been for many years considered of the greatest importance to navigation in these seas. Mr. HORSBURG, in particular, has devoted himself to obtain this object for the interest of geography; and through his instrumentality chiefly a survey was directed. Accordingly the survey of the Red Sea having been completed in April 1834, Captain MOERSBY was ordered to proceed in the H. C. Surveying Ship "BENARES", having under him as tenders the "ROYAL TIGER" schooner, in charge of Lieutenant F. T. POWELL, Assistant Surveyor, and the "MALDIVA", a large decked boat.

REPORT.

The "BENARES" arrived at Male on the 15th November 1834, but her appearance excited among the natives such apprehensions, as augured ill for any friendly intercourse. In order to understand the feelings which actuated them, we must refer both to a natural tinidity of character and to recent political circumstances. For the enemies of the reigning Sultan, and the misconduct of his ministers had, two years previously, provoked a rebellion headed by his younger brother HAMED DIDEE, The insurgants were successful, seccured the person, and threatened the life of the Sovereign, who procured his safety and released by promising to satisfy their demands.

HAMED DIDEE nevertheless, dared not trust himself to the royal word, but embarked by night on board a large boat, and steered for the Coast of Arabia; but in the Gulph of Aden his provisions had failed, his boat was leaky and so damaged, that there was little probability of escaping death either from famine or in the sea. In this distress, the H. C. Surveying Brigg "PALINURUS", Commander HAINES, came insight [Oct.



MALDIVE BARBER in the OPEN.
PHOTO. KASSIS 1962. VILGON Coll.

1833], and supplied them with provisions, as well as repared their damages, HAMED DIDEE was now enabled to reach Mocha [in Arabia], and eventually Cochin [in India], where he continued watching the course of events at home, and where he was supposed to be meditating the execution of a threat he had made before leaving his country, that he would revenge himself by a Malabar invention, the horrors of which had been felt in former days by the Maldivians. Captain MORESBY was naturally supposed to be the minister of HAMED's vengeance. As soon as the "BENARES" anchored, a boat was sent off to demand the cause of coming. Their uneasiness was not removed by a request to survey.

The suspicious nature of Captain MORESBY's avowed object now co-operated with political circumstances upon minds whose charesteristic trait is fearfulness. The natives exhibited an excess of weakness, not only in their intrecourse with the officers of the "BENARES", but in their intercourse with one another. One instance of this is given in the custom, which prevails among them, of suspending cowries to the inner side of the outer door of their houses, in order that the entry of a stranger may not surprise them. Cautioness and secretivness, were observed to be the most developed of in the phrenological indications.

An interview with the Sultan [Muhammad Muin Ud Din I] being proposed, his ministers came on board in unusal state, and apologized for delay, an account of their master's ill health; but were very careful not to commit them selves by answering the questions put to them. Nothing could be obtained from them for many days. At length the Sultan's health been improved, an interview was settled, but the appointed day being arrived, the Sultan had a relaps. Captain MORESBY was compelled ultimately to inform them, that he should commence the survey at a certain day with or without their consent, and operations commenced on that day without permission. The "BENARES" having quited the islands for the coast, the Maldivians were again alarmed by a letter from the Bengal Government regarding the establishment of a coal depot. After the return of the "BENARES", the natives appeared more easy, although by no means free form apprehensions, as they objected to the surveying flags, and were not satisfied untill they were permitted to set up their own also.

The obsticles in the way of friendly intercouse were eventually removed by events consequent to the death of the Sultan, and at accention of his second son [Muhammad Imad Ud Din IV], for, the distress of the people were increasing, and the public vioce demanded the recall of HAMED DIDEE. The young King accordingly invited his uncle to his council in which he is now the most influential adviser, although he has declined any official situation. He has taken advantage of his present position to pay a debt of gratitude, by sorting the wishes of H. C. Company in affecting the survey. He has represented to his countrymen the folly of opposing a Government which is so powerful, and from whose dominions they derive their daily bread, on the other hand, he endeavoured to remove any bad impressions which the conduct of his countrymen might have given, and lastly, he obtained permission for Lieut. YOUNG and Mr. CHRISTOPHER to remain at Male after the departure of the "BENARES".

The importance of these services may be appreciated, by comparing the character of timidity which has been attributed to them before, and the popular belife in future events, whose close approach is indicated to them by circumstances which they observe. They have by tradition, that



WOMAN MAKING COCOA-FIBER MATS.
PHOTO. KASSIS 1962. VILGON Coll.

they shall one day be subjugated to Europeans, the population shall diminish, and their island shall gradually sink dovn into the deep. They observe the Atolls to be wasting away. In some the cocoanut-trees are standing in the water, in another the dark soil of the island is discernible at low water thirty feet from the beach, the South-East side of an island in Phaidee Pholo Atoll [Faadhippolhu] is entirely gone, but is marked by a Banyan tree in the water. They say that some islands have disappeared entirely, and an instance near the island Wardoo [Vaadhoo] a rocky shoal, which they say was once an island in the Atoll Milla-Dou [Miladhounmadulu]. Some of the outer edges of the islands have fallen into the sea, which is fathomless in those parts. It is, however, acknowledged that reefs have arisen from the water, and gradually formed islands, and the inhabitants of Male remember the outer edge of a circular reef in their harbour to have had two fathoms in the shoalest part, which is now dry at low water.

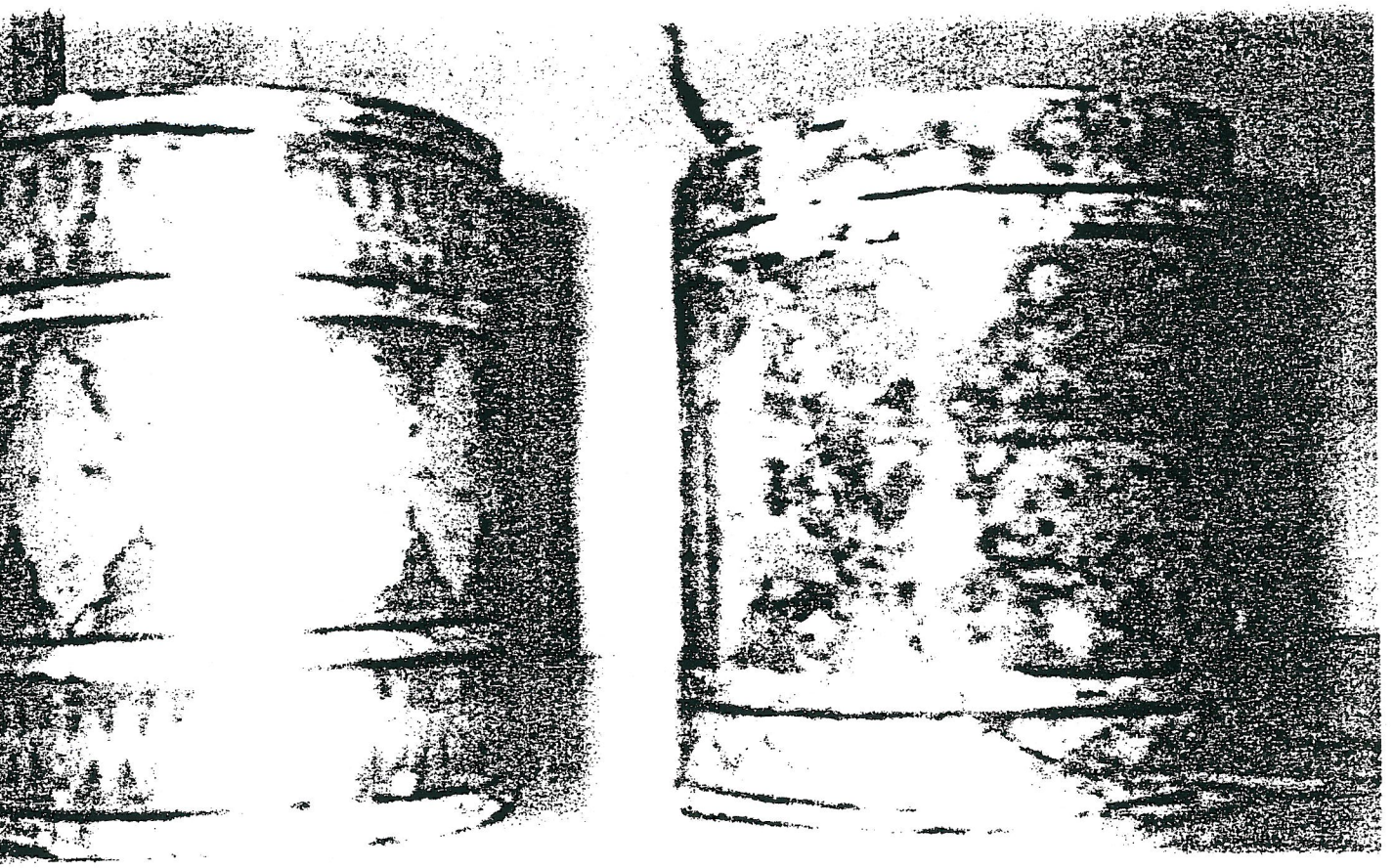
They mark the approach of evel days also in the diminution of population and general deterioration. Yet the neccessaries of life are so abundant, that a begger is never seen, nor can this retrogression be attributable to war or dissension, for they have been in peace for many years, and now have no army with the exception of a militia brought out of about four-fifths of the male inhabitants in Male [ca. 350 militia]. The whole population of that island being only between 1,500 and 2,000, of whom the majority are females.

The awkwardness of their sword and spear exercise on festivals, shows that they are little accustomed to use them. Their only duty is to serve in rotation, forty together, with musquets at the palace.

The declining state of commerce, is probably, the chief cause of their present distresses. Lieuten. ROBINSON observes, that PYRARD [ca. 1605] talks of thirty or forty vessels loaded with cowries, and one hundred with cocoanuts, annually leaving the island, but now not more than one-fifth [ca. 7] of that number of vessels altogether visit the islands.

Newertheless, the profits of the Maldiva trade is considerable. The vessels, in which it is carried on, are of about one hundred tons burden, commanded sometimes by Europeans and sometimes by natives. Presents having been made as port-dues, godowns are assigned, and shops opened, where the traders barter for the country produce. The native bring dried bonito, coir, cocoanuts, cowries, and tortoise-shell. There is abundance of the last article. Cowries is valued at Male at one rupee per Goolah, which is a bundle of about 1,200 [12,000. L.V.]. Cocoanuts of the islands are prized for keeping much longer than those of the Coast. Coir from Tilla-Dou-Matis [Thiladhunmathi] is estimated thirty per cent more than that from any other Atolls. Bonito is usually taken to Sumatra, where a lac [100,000] is sold for 2,000 Spanish dollars [Mexican $], having been purchased at Male for something less than 2,000 Rupees.

In 1824, no less than seventy-six lacs of fish were purchased by English vessels alone, in another subsequent year, fifty-six and in another, only ten. Mats also are exported, they are made of grass which grows in the Southern islands. In exchange are rice, betel-nuts, tobacco, common crockery ware, red handkerchief and sugar. There is little demand for the two last mentioned items, as the natives extract from the cocoanut a



DRUMS of WOOD and SHARK-SKIN. ca.30 cm high.
Völkerkunde Museeum. BERLIN.
PHOTO. 1885. ROSSET. VILGON Coll.

kind of sugar called "Ghoor", which tastes like honey, and they wear the native cloths which is woven principally at Malos Madou Atoll [Maal-hosmadulu]. They often spend weeks in the manufacture of a single piece, which enables them to make it both pretty and strong, nothwith-standing their ill-constructed looms. Rice is purchased at Calcutta and Chittagong at eight rupees per candy, and is sold at Male for goods to the value of sixteen or twenty rupees. This system of barter, however, detains the barters of the vessels four or five months, during which time their crews suffer much from sikness.

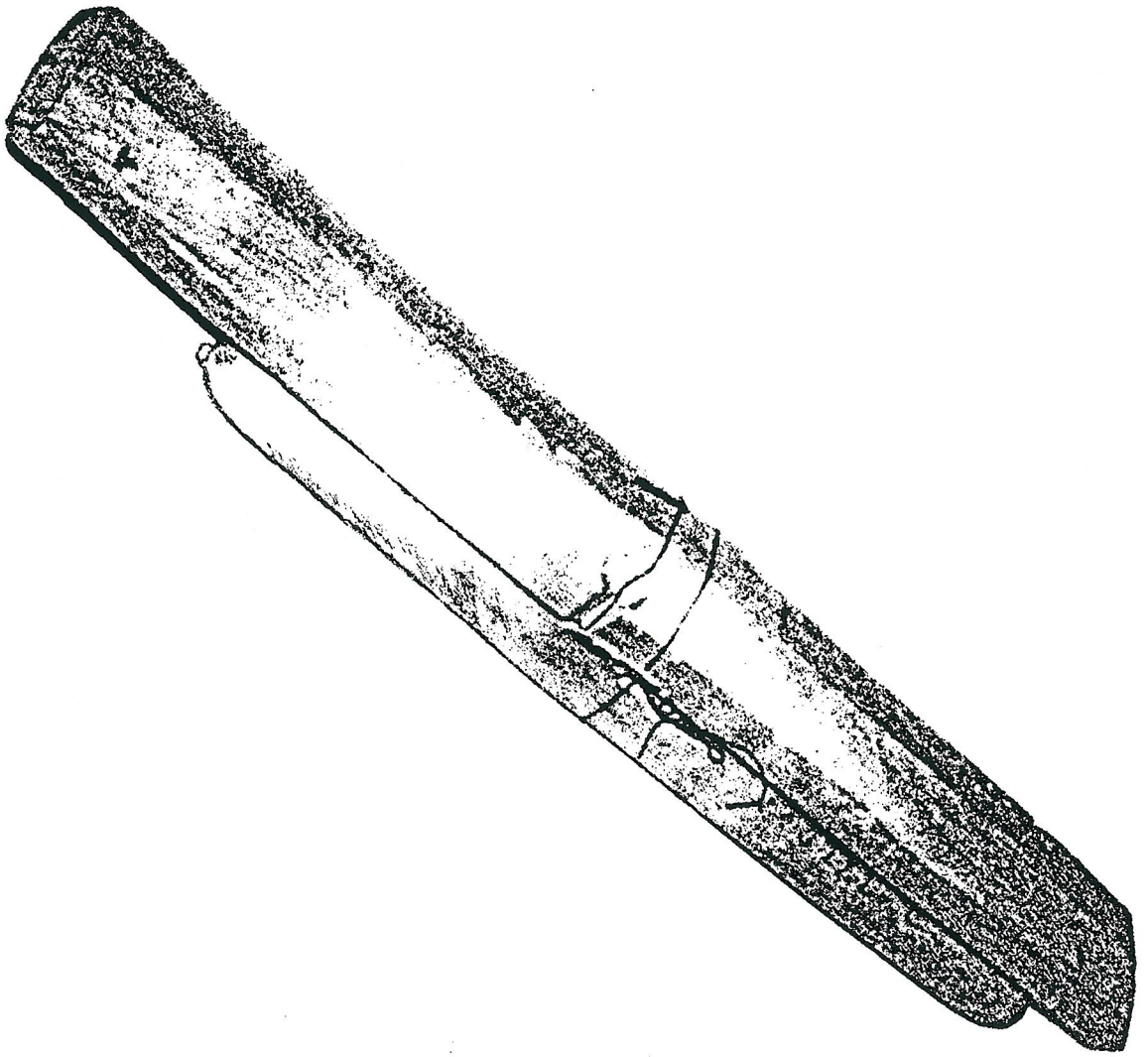
The sikness to which strangers are most liable, is a bowel complaint, which appears peculiar to these islands. The only remedy is immedeate departure for the Continent. About fifty years ago [ca.1752], the Malabars took Male, and held it for some time, when they were attacked by this disease, and compelled to give up their conquest. Since that event, the Malabars have believed that the Maldivians as revenge, supply traders from their coast with poisoned water. Dr. CHAMBELL has collected many cases, in which its destructive effects upon foreigners is shown, but the natives also appear liable to it, for in one instance nearly the whole population of an island was carried off.

There appears to be few other diseases of importance with the exception of beriberry. Fevers are common, but smallpox is unknown, except in cases of importation from the Continent. Quarantine laws, however, exist to prevent such cases. Dr. CHAMBELL attributes the unhealthiness of strangers partly to the lagoons and marshes formed by the lagoons throughout the islands, and partly to the unvarying temperature of the climate. When the "BENARES" first visited the islands, the monsoon had just cleared away, the thermometer ranged between 80° and 82°. When the violent monsoon showers set in, it fell as low as 75°, but rose to 80°, and after the monsoon the range was between 82° and 85°. [?] The dews were at times hardly perceptible on shipboard.

The unhealthiness of the climate has been long notorious, and it has doubtless been the great obsticle to foreign intercourse and intrenal improvement. But the intellectual and moral dispositions of the inhabitants appear such as would justify warm expectations of the philanthropist. Among themselves the Maldivians are quite and inoffensive.

War and murder are scarcely known, theft is uncommon, timidity is their greatest weakness, but this is not sufficient to overcome their humane feelings, as many shipwrecked strangers have borne ample testimony. Extreme gentleness of disposition and disinclination to crime, has imparted mildness to an ultra despotic Government. No man may presume to sit in the Royal presence. The Sultan attires himself after the manner of an Indian musalman, but no other dare wear more than a cloth around the loins, and a plain red handkerchief on the head. The pilot of the "BENARES" wore a blue vest on board, but invaribly took it off before landing. The property of the principle ministers, as well as of all other Government servants, falls to the Sultan in case of death.

Notwithstanding this contempt of freedom, the severest punishment is outrageous and exile to one of the barren islands in the South. Crimes of greater or less magnitude are punished with banishment to more or less barren islands. Minor offenders are merely scourged. Sometime



TOOLS for FIRE MAKING. ca.30 cm.
Völkerkunde Museeum. BERLIN.
PHOTO. 1885. ROSSET. VILGON Coll.

since, some culprits escaped to the Malabar coast, and were pardoned by the Sultan in consideration of the perils which they had encountered. No bad consequences follow this leastuney, for the Government is secured, as well by the mildness of its subjects as by the veneration with which the Maldivians regard all superiors.

In the latter respect, they are remarkably distinguished from all other nations whether civilized or uncivilized. The latter rank themselves the standard of excellence, but these islanders think of themselves as the most base of mankind. The same feeling prompts them to bestow perhaps undue honor on the graves of their honored and great man. Passages from the Koran are frequently read over their tombs, or a pall of white cloth is raised above, and flowers are strewed about them. Somtimes the couch of the deceased is perserved, and adorned with flowers. Yet they are not so superstitious as might be expected of so ignorant a people. When a boat is first launched, an ornamented model is offered as a propitiatory sacrifice to the winds and waves, and after recovery from sickness, a small piece of cloth is set up by a mosque or some famous grave.

From a phrenological examination, Dr. CAMPBELL concluded that this favorable view of their moral dispositions is not incorrect since the organs of destructivness and combativeness were seldom distinguishable, but those of benevolence and veneration are strictly developed. Dr. CAMPBELL's observations are equally favourable to their intellectual powers, among which constructiveness and tender appear most prominent.

Although the goldsmith and silversmith have no opportunity to display much skill, their sole employment being to make ornaments for children, yet their own knives show that the native blacksmiths understand how to combine utility with elegance. The blacksmith's bellows are also an ingenious contrivance. Their mats, mosques, tombs, and boats, containes great mecanical ingenuity. Considerable taste is shown in constructing the tanks which are used for ablution in the burial grounds.

Some houses but in ruins were observed to be built of madrepore, one of them being of two stories. All the houses are very neat, and are shut out from the road by a fence five or six feet high. Rows of betle and cocoanut treas line the roads, which are excellent constructed in all the islands, but particularly at Male.

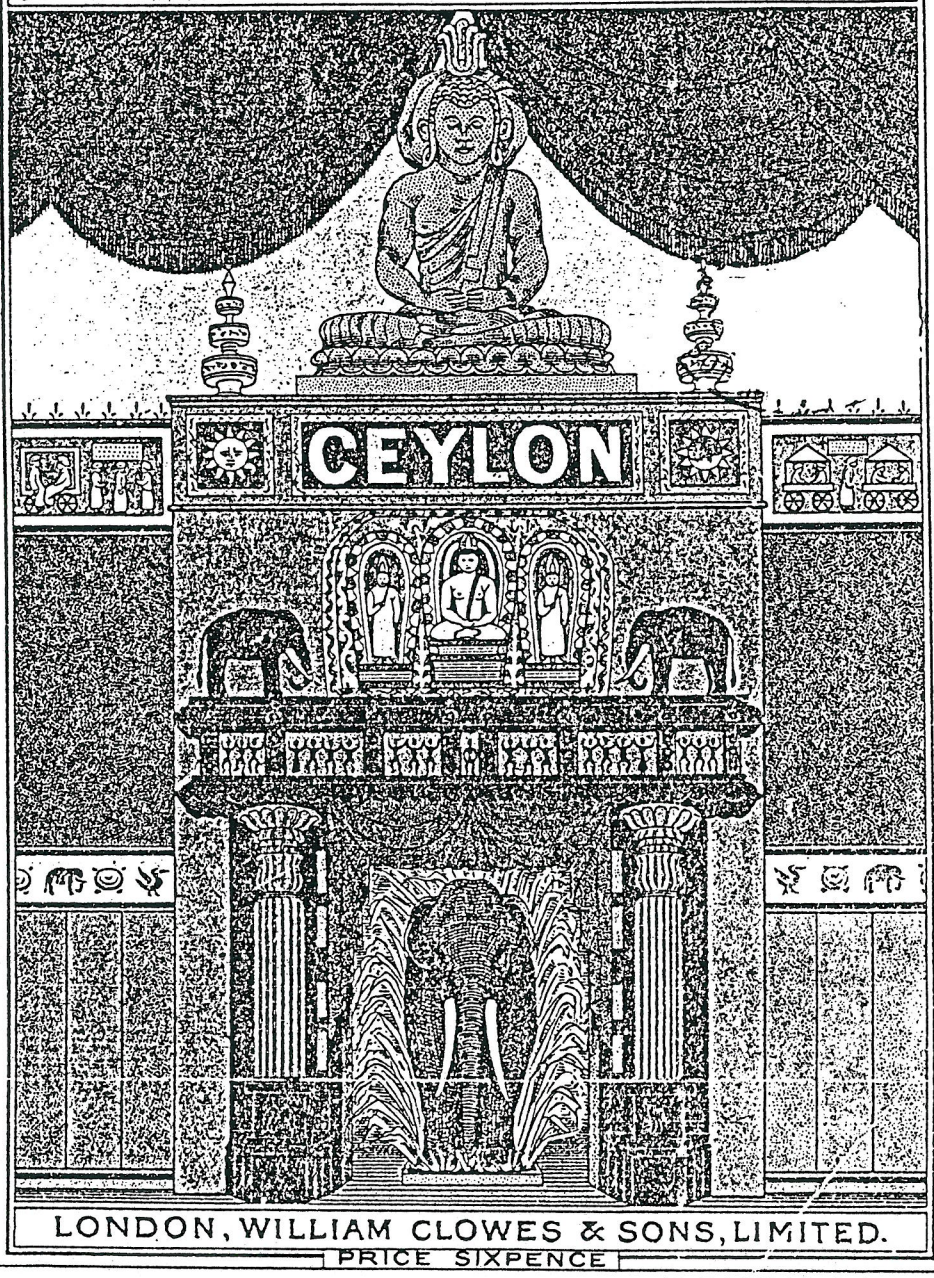
Nor do the natives appear indifferent to improvement, for all, in particularly the chief, evinced a strong desire to becom acquainted with our language, and with our knowledge. But no great exertion can at present be expected from them. Habitual idleness has inhibitated their constitution, although this might be strengthened by an improved diet and the cultivation of their soil, which in its present state, is a fruitful source of disease.

In the Southern islands is the least cultivation, and the most rain, which falling upon a light sandy soil, produces a vast number of wild plants, which decay infects the air with disease, and here accordingly were observed a great number of infirmities. The water also of these islands is bad, brackish in the wells, but this is partly remadied by collecting the rain from the trees in the reiny season. At Male and in the Northern islands, the appearance of the people is improved. ***

COLONIAL & INDIAN EXHIBITION, 1886.

ILLUSTRATED HANDBOOK & CATALOGUE

FOR



LONDON, WILLIAM CLOWES & SONS, LIMITED.

PRICE SIXPENCE

1886. ROSSET, CARL WILLHELM.

IN: Colonial & Indian Exhibition, 1886. Illustrated Handbook & Catalogue for CEYLON. P.125-133. William Clowes & Sons, Ltd. London 1886.

These nine pages in the Ceylon Catalogue 1886, contain Mr. C.W. ROSSET's account for the Maldive Islands on three pages, as well as a register of his articles in his large collection of Maldive Islands. Some items are from the Maldive Vizier IBRAHIM DIDI, and the No. 4, 18, 20, 77, 117, 161, 170, 182, 187, 189, 210, 220, 236, 270, 311, 319, 320, 356, contain specific etnographical information. The No.372 telephone line was in use between the Harbour-master and the Sultan's palace. About the "Maldive Photosgraphs" No.379-418 mentioned on Page 133, I have not so far been able to locate. Maybe the photos were exhibits. [ENGLISH]

SECTION 6.

Articles from the Maldive Islands. [M.]

The larger collection of Maldive articles exhibited is the property of Mr. C. W. Rosset, and was formed by him at the end of 1885, during a visit of some duration in the islands.

A smaller series is exhibited by His Highness Ibrahim Didi, Vizier to the Sultan of the Maldives.

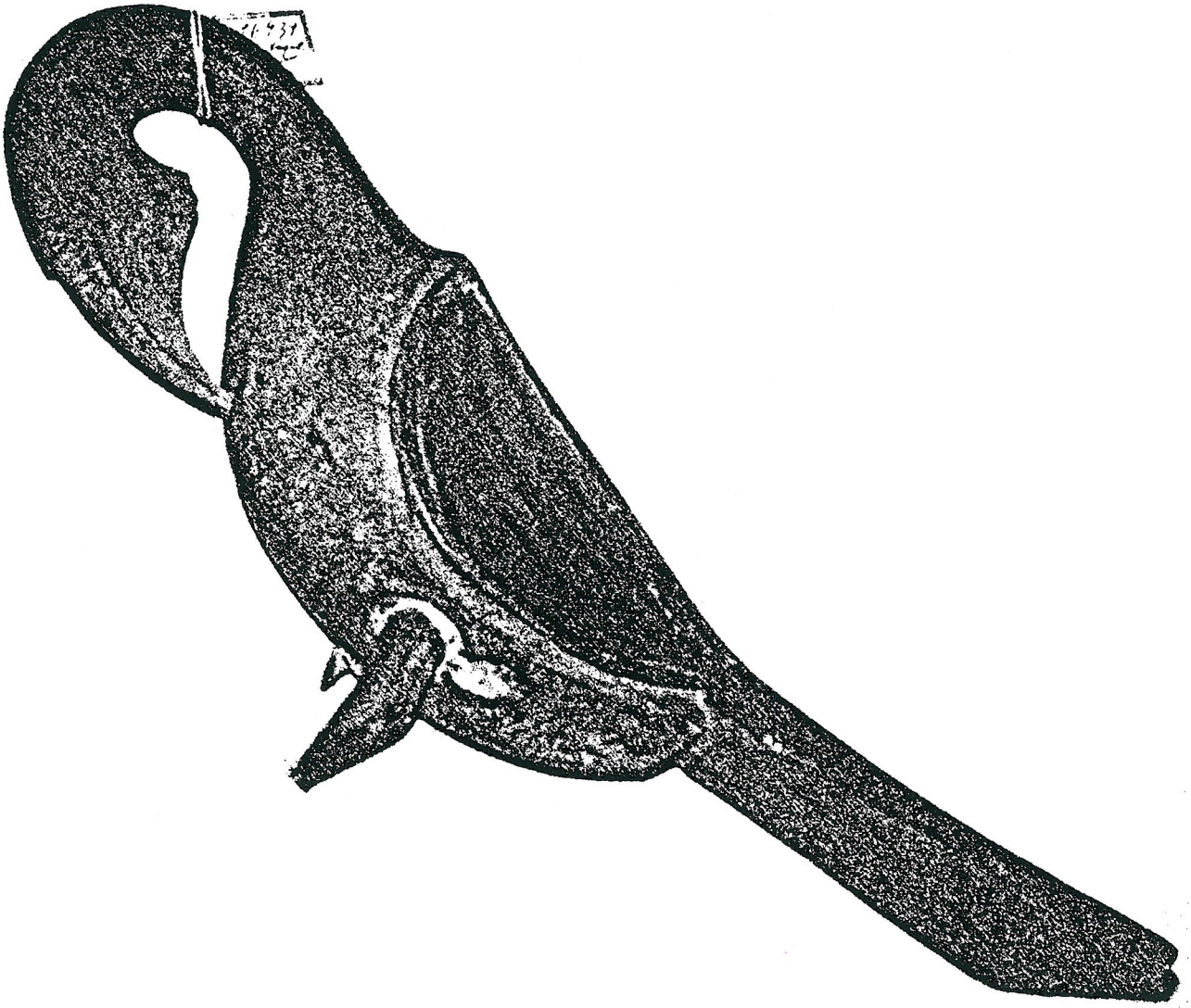
The following account of the Maldive Islands has been communicated by Mr. C. W. Rosset:—

"The Maldive Islands are situated in the Indian Ocean, south-west of the Indian Peninsula, from which the nearest cluster (Ihavandiffulu Atol) is about 350 miles distant, while the central one (Malé Atol) lies about 400 miles from the nearest point of Ceylon.

These islands are a dependency of the Government of Ceylon, which does not, however, interfere in any way with the internal administration; in fact, the political relations of the two are confined to a yearly embassy from the Maldive Sultan to the Government of Ceylon, the reception of which in Colombo is a very ceremonious function, the Ambassador presenting the Sultan's letter and presents to the Governor, who makes presents in return. Almost the only other occasion on which official communications pass between the two Governments is in the case of a shipwreck on the islands, when the Sultan advises the Governor of the mishap, and his Excellency replies by thanking him for his kindness and humanity to the shipwrecked crew.

Although the Maldives have been more or less subject to the various Governments which have succeeded one another in Ceylon during the last two or three hundred years, comparatively little is as yet known about the inhabitants. The most complete work yet published on the subject is the Report, compiled in 1883 by H. C. P. Bell, Esq., of the Ceylon Civil Service, which treats at some length of the past history and present resources of the group.

The Maldive Islands are of coral growth, and evidently belong to the same chain of submarine mountains on which the polyps have built up the Laccadives. The islands are grouped together in clusters called Atols, of which there are twenty, named (in order from



ORNAMENT BIRD from THE MALDIVE ISLANDS. ca.30 cm.
Völkerkunde Museeum. BERLIN.
PHOTO. 1885. ROSSET. VILGON Coll.

north to south) Ihavandiffulu, Tiladummati, Makunudu (Malcolm), Miladummdulu, North Malosmadulu, Fadiffolu, South Malosmadulu, Goidu (Horsburgh), North Malé, Rasdu (Ross), South Malé, Ari, Fulidu, North Nilandu, Mulaku, South Nilandu, Kolumadulu, Haddummati, Huvadu (Suvadiva), and Addu. The Atol is formed of a number of islands of different sizes, joined by reefs, which enclosed a lagoon of sea-water; many of the islands are themselves merely a ring of coral rock enclosing a smaller lagoon. There are generally openings in different parts of the barrier-reef, which are in many cases wide and deep enough to allow large ships to enter. The surface of the islands is covered sand mixed with decayed vegetable matter to a depth of three or four feet, under which is soft rock. The islands are covered with a thick jungle, above which tower the coconut trees; the vegetation is very luxuriant, but does not apparently differ from that found in Southern India and Ceylon. There are no streams on any of the islands; on most of them fresh water can be obtained from wells; but the quality differs very considerably, on some Atols it is very good, while on others it is so bad as to be dangerous.

The climate of the Maldives is similar to that of Ceylon as regards temperature; the heat is never very oppressive, the thermometer ranges from 80° to 90° in the day, and is generally at about 80° at night. There is always a pleasant sea breeze, which modifies the sun's heat very much. But there is one source of disease which renders many of the islands uninhabitable during half the year; many of the lagoons being entirely landlocked, the confined sea-water becomes stale and emits the most offensive odours during the dry season, that is when the north-east monsoon is blowing. During this period (from December to May) it is quite impossible to remain to leeward of such lagoons. During the prevalence of the south-west monsoon matters are better, as the sea breaks over the barrier-reef and partially renews the confined water. This fetid sea-water, the bad drinking-water obtained on many islands, and the carelessness of the inhabitants as regards their manner of living, are the principal causes of the large amount of sickness prevalent on the Maldives; the principal diseases are dysentery and fever. The mortality among children is much greater than with us; it is said that only about twenty per cent. attain five years, though this is probably an exaggeration.

The Maldivians are a quiet, hospitable people, though inclined to be suspicious and reserved with foreigners until they have become well acquainted with them; once their confidence is gained, however, they are extremely hospitable. They are generally intelligent-looking, and have a much more pleasant expression than the inhabitants of many other Eastern countries: frank, open fa..., without a trace of sullenness. They have a decidedly Arabian caste of countenance, and are generally of a dark-brown complexion, though many in Malé are much fairer.

The dress of the men is very simple, consisting generally of a pair of cotton drawers and a waistcloth; some wear besides a white shirt. They generally wear a coloured handkerchief round the head but the turban is not worn. The priests and high-castes generally wear a long sort of dressing-gown, reaching nearly to the ankles. The women's dress is much more elaborate and becoming; the waist-cloth is of a dark brown colour with a border of black and white stripes, over which is worn a loose-fitting coloured silk shirt edged at the neck with gold or silver embroidery; round the head they twist a silk handkerchief matching the shirt in colour.

Their food consists for the most part of rice, fish, and coconut; the meals are eaten after the manner of Orientals, in silence, the women waiting first upon the men, and afterwards taking their own meal separately.

The chief employments of the Maldivians are fishing, collecting cowries and tortoiseshell, gathering coconuts, cloth- and mat-weaving, turning, and twisting coconut fibre into coir-yarn.

The trade of the Maldives all passes through Male, whither the inhabitants of the other islands all bring their produce, which they exchange for rice and other necessaries. The exports consist of coconuts, coir-yarn, dried and salted fish, and tortoiseshell; the imports are mostly articles of food."

H. H. IBRAHIM DIDI, Vizier to the Sultan of the Maldives.—Products and manufactures of the Maldive Islands, including a fine collection of the peculiar mats made by the people, bags of cowries which form the local currency, salt fish, the curing of which forms a principal industry of the islands, &c., &c.

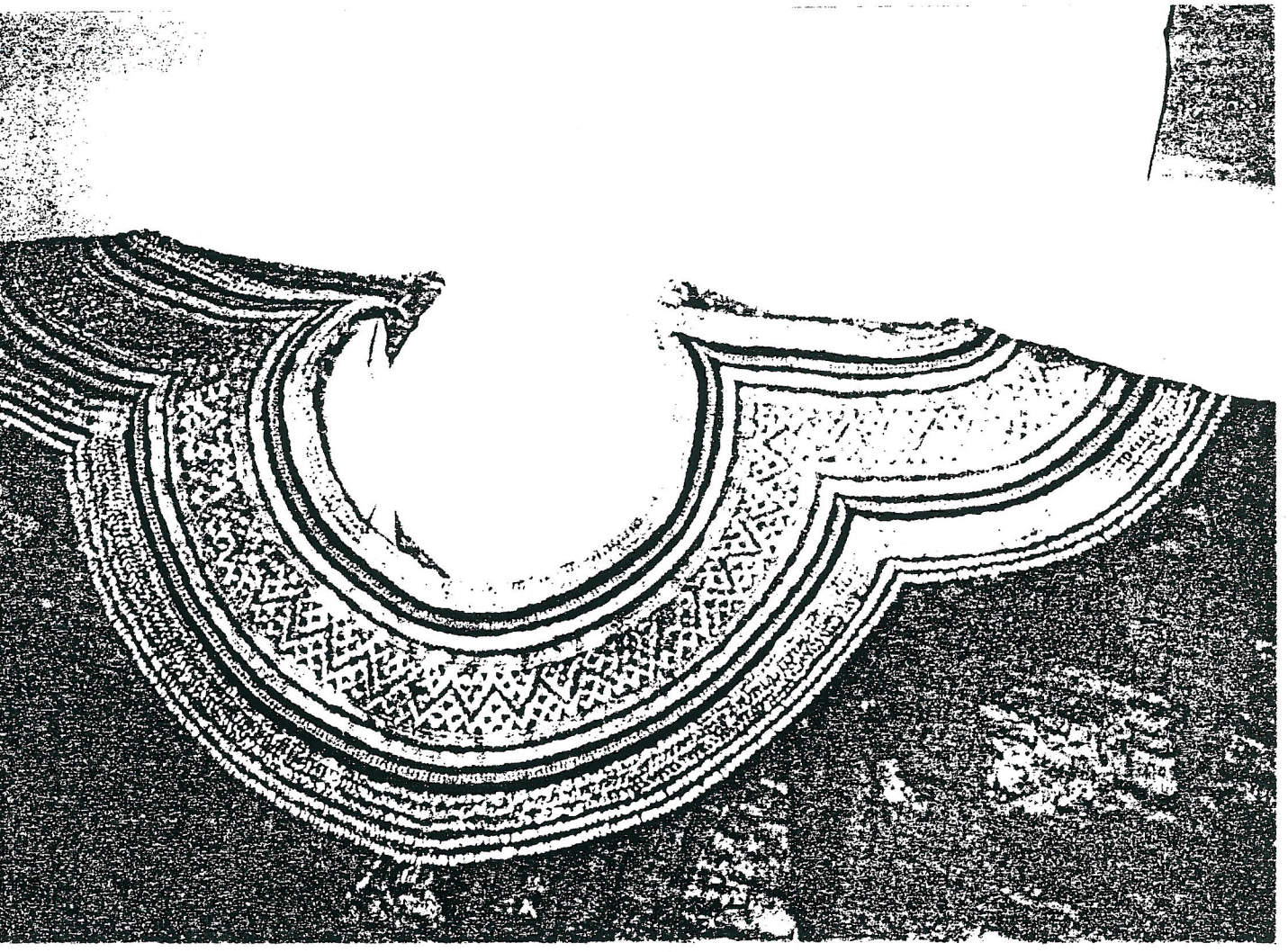
GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON.—1. Mat, finest quality. 2. Mat, second quality. 3. Mat, third quality. 4. Mat, fourth quality. From Suvativa Atol. These mats (*M. tudu kuna*) are made only in Suvadiva Atol from a rush or sedge (*M. kau*) which grows best there. Nothing produced elsewhere can approach the delicacy of pattern and the tasteful combination of the three colours used (black, pale brown, and white), which specialities have gained a great reputation for these mats. The finest come from Gaddu Island, the ordinary kind from Havara-Tinadu, and the small ones from Gemana-Furhi.

5. Pair of Knitting-Needles. 6. Two Cotton Reels. From Maluamatulu Atol.

7. Box for holding betel (for children). From Tuladu Atol.

8. Wooden Rings for ornamenting the ropes of swings.

9. Two Earthenware Plates, round. 10. One Large Earthenware Plate, round. 11. Ditto. 12. Ditto. 13. Ditto. 14. One Medium-sized Earthenware Plate, round.



WOMANS DRESS. SILK EMBROIDERED with GOLD and SILVER.
Völkerkunde Museeum. BERLIN.
PHOTO. 1885. ROSSET. VILGON Coll.

15. Ditto. 16. Ditto. 17. Ditto. 18. Ditto. Made out of a mixture of emery and powdered sandstone prepared with wax. They are specially used in preparing medicines, and common throughout the Maldive Group.

19. Grindstone. 20. Ditto. Made throughout the Maldive Group of a mixture of sandstone and wax. The stone is placed in a frame.

21. Fifteen small Coconuts, used as playthings throughout the Maldive Group.

22. Exceptionally large Coconut, used throughout the Maldive Group as an ornament for the houses.

23. Young Coconut, prepared for offering to a visitor.

24. Shells used as playthings by children.

25. Axe-head. 26. Handle for above. From Malusmatulu Atol.

27. Betel-box.

28. Ditto.

29. Chessman, old.

30. Ditto.

31. Scraped Coconut kernel, for making milk.

32. Cover for cooking-pot.

33. "Nine Stone," game complete.

34. Cover for cooking-pot.

35. Basket-work Cover for food-dish.

36. Wooden Plate for rice.

37. Rice-cleaner.

38. Floor Carpet.

39. Ditto.

40. Woman's Under Cloth, first quality. 41. Ditto. 42. Woman's Under Cloth, second quality. 43. Ditto. 44. Woman's Under Cloth, third quality. 45. Ditto. 46. Ditto. 47. Child's Under Cloth, third quality. 48. Woman's Under Cloth, third quality. From Edajuri Island.

49. Child's Sleeping-Mat.

50. Rice Pounder.

51. Carved Wooden Cover for above.

52. Wooden Dish to fit into a stand.

53. Large Medicine Spoon, cut from a shell.

54. Small Medicine Spoon, cut from a shell.

55. Shell from which Nos. 53 and 54 are cut.

56. Unfinished Knife Blade.

57. Ditto.

58. Ditto.

59. Finished Knife Blade.

60. Large Wooden Stand for holding No. 51.

61. Wooden Betel-box.

62. Wooden Box for holding glass bottles.

63. Flagstaff Cap.

64. Finely-carved Wooden Darning-needle.

65. Child's Toy, only for use by high caste children.

66. Finely-carved Wooden Rolling-pin, used by high caste only.

67. Rattle attached to either end of a dancer's staff.

68. Maldive Woman's Shirt, middle caste.

69. Man's Hat, used by all castes.

70. Woman's Hat, used by all castes.

71. A kind of tip-cat used by middle castes throughout the group.

72. Large Fish-Knife of the best make, copied from an European model.

73. White Sea Plant, from Male Atol.

74. A kind of tip-cat used by low castes.

75. Black Sea Plant, from Tilladumati Atol.

76. Three Silver Bangles, from Nilandu Atol. 77. Six Brass Bangles, from Nilandu Atol. Six are worn on each arm; high caste women wear gold, middle caste silver, and low caste brass.

78. Model of a fishing-net. From Tilladumati Atol.

79. Reel of Gold Wire. 80. Reel of Silver Wire. 81. Ten yards of Gold Thread. 82. Ten yards of Silver Thread. Brought from India and used in embroidering cloth, &c.

83. Child's Spinning-top.

84. Native Sweetmeat, prepared for high castes from Coconut.

85. Child's Spinning-top.

86. Medicine Spoon, carved out of a shell.

87. Colouring matter used by women after bathing for painting the eyes.

88. Pomade for the hair.

89. Sweet-smelling Ointment, used by women for anointing the body after bathing.

90. Wooden Knife, used for turning pastry.

91. Large Plate, used for preparing Medicine.

92. Wooden Box for holding preserves, high caste.

93. Sweet-smelling Ointment, used by women for anointing the body after bathing.

94. Man's Hat, made by the women.

95. Wooden Cover for rice dish.

96. Touchwood sticks, for procuring fire by friction.

97. Cooking Spoon for rice, made from a coconut.

98. Fishing-line, fine quality.

99. Rice-Sifter, made out of coconut leaves.

100. Model of Boat used by high castes.

101. "Nine Stone" game.

102. Part of Silver Waist Chain worn by middle caste children. High caste wear the same in gold. Low caste wear the same in brass.

103. Fishing-line, ordinary kind.

104. Model of Boat used by high castes.

105. Finely-carved Jeweller's Hammer.

106. Child's Wooden Knife, gilt.

107. Maldive Knife.

108. Boatman's Cap.

109. Plane made in the Maldives.

110. Nargil Pipe stopper, first quality.

111. Boatman's Cap.

112. Knife for extracting the kernel from the coconut.

113. Maldive Knife.

114. Gimlet.

115. Boatman's Cap.

116. Nargil (pipe-stopper), second quality.

117. Sultan's Flag. All Maldive sailing-boats must have the Sultan's star on the sail.

118. Sea Plant.

119. Pipe-bowl.

120. Boatman's Cap.

121. Four Embroidery Needles.

122. Two Spools.

123. Large Wooden Covered Dish for carrying hot food to high caste people when they are away from home.

124. Nargil Pipe-stopper.

125. Boatman's Cap.

126. Two Embroidery Needles.

127. Kite.

128. Round Wooden Box and Cover, with lock and key.

129. Wooden Betel-box.

130. Boatman's Cap.

131. Pipe-bowl, first quality, brought from the Malabar coast.

132. Stem for above; brought from India.

133. Stopper for the water-bottle used with above pipe, and the only part made in the Maldives.

134. Fishing-seine.

135. Sheet of Tortoiseshell.

136. Wooden stand to hold the ball used by women in embroidering.

137. Pipe-bowl, second quality, brought from the Malabar coast.

138. Stem for above, brought from India.

139. Stopper for the water-bottle used with above, made in the Maldives.

140. Sheet of Tortoiseshell.

141. Best quality of Coir Yarn.

142. Apparatus used by the natives in climbing coconut trees.

143. Scales made out of coconut shells, after an European model, with weights.

144. Rake, used on roads.

145. Child's Spinning-top, used by children from ten to sixteen years old.

146. Cotton Reel.

147. Medicine Spoon.

148. Pipe-bowl, third quality, brought from the Malabar coast.

149. Stem for above, brought from India.

150. Stopper for the water-bottle used with the above pipe, made in the Maldives.

151. Cotton Reel.

152. Sheet of Tortoiseshell.

153. Second quality Coir Yarn.

154. Spoon made from a coconut shell.

155. Scales made from coconut shells after European models, with weights.

156. Cotton Reel.

157. Child's Toy.

158. Medicine Spoon.

159. Part of a Silver Chain, made by Maldive jeweller, and worn round the waist.

160. Maldive Shoes, made of wood, for men and women.

161. Pot of Fish Extract. For the preparation of this Extract a large iron pot is filled with fresh and sea water in equal proportions, into which about six or eight large fish are put, and the whole is then boiled down to about one-third the original bulk. The pot is again filled up with water, and the same number of fish being added the boiling process it repeated. After say three repetitions the residue is strained and left to cool, when a kind of jelly is formed, which is packed in jars and put aside for use. It is most generally used as food on sailing vessels trading to Ceylon and India, and is also eaten when the result of a fishery is poor.

162. Pot of Jaggery.

163. Child's Rattle.

164. Scent Bottle in embroidered case, to hang on the waistband; made in the Island.

165. Piece of Cloth embroidered in gold; specimen of the finest work made in the Islands.

166. Sheet of Tortoiseshell.

167. Spoon made from a coconut.

168. Touchwood for procuring fire by friction.

169. Ball used by women in embroidering, to go with No. 136.

170. Sign put up before a house where a person is lying ill (*M. vachuda*); a statement of the person's illness is written on the cloth, together with a prayer to the devil (who is supposed to be the cause of illness and deaths) to effect a cure.

171. Third quality of Coir Yarn.

172. Sheet of Tortoiseshell.

173. Scales made from coconut shells after European model, with weights.

174. Stick used for catching insects.

175. Box of "Birdlime," used with above.

176. Scent Bottle in embroidered case, to hang on the waistband, worn by high-caste women.

177. Spoon made from a coconut shell.

178. Wooden Maldive Shoes for children.

179. Kite.

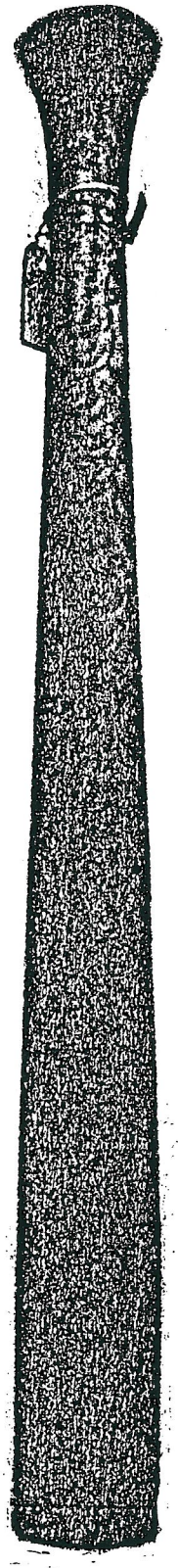
180. Cover for food-dishes.

181. Paper imitation rose made by a Maldive boy.

182. Finely-worked Maldive Knife, mother-of-pearl and black coral handle (*M. Fiyshi*). These knives may be considered almost unique for the excellence of the carving and inlaying work, as also for their great handiness and portability. They are now, however, very scarce, as the Maldivians have taken to copying modern models in many of their manufactures, and it was in fact with the greatest difficulty that this specimen was procured.

183. Common kind of Maldive Knife.

184. Betel-box.



BATON of WOOD. ca. 40 cm.
Volkerkunde Museeum. BERLIN.
PHOTO. 1885. ROSSET. VILGON Coll.

185. Scales made from cocoanut shells after European model, with weights.
186. Spoons made from cocoanut.
187. Bag of Cowrie Shells. (*M. Boli.*) Cowrie shells served the purpose of money for many centuries, and are in fact still used for local dealings. The extension of the foreign trade, however, has caused Cowries to be superseded by a more portable metal currency.

The value of Cowries has fluctuated very considerably, and ranged from 400,000 to 1,200,000 to a *dinâr* of gold. One hundred of these shells is called *syâh*, seven hundred *fâl*, twelve thousand *cotta*, one hundred thousand *bostoh*.

These Shells are found in myriads at the Maldives. Twice a month, at neap tides, men and women wade into the sea and gather them from under the rocks to which they attach themselves; one person sometimes gathering as many as twelve thousand in a day. They are then buried until all signs of putrefaction have disappeared, when they are generally packed for market as here shown.

These triangular cocoanut leaf bags are called *pottas*, and generally weigh about 25 lbs. each.

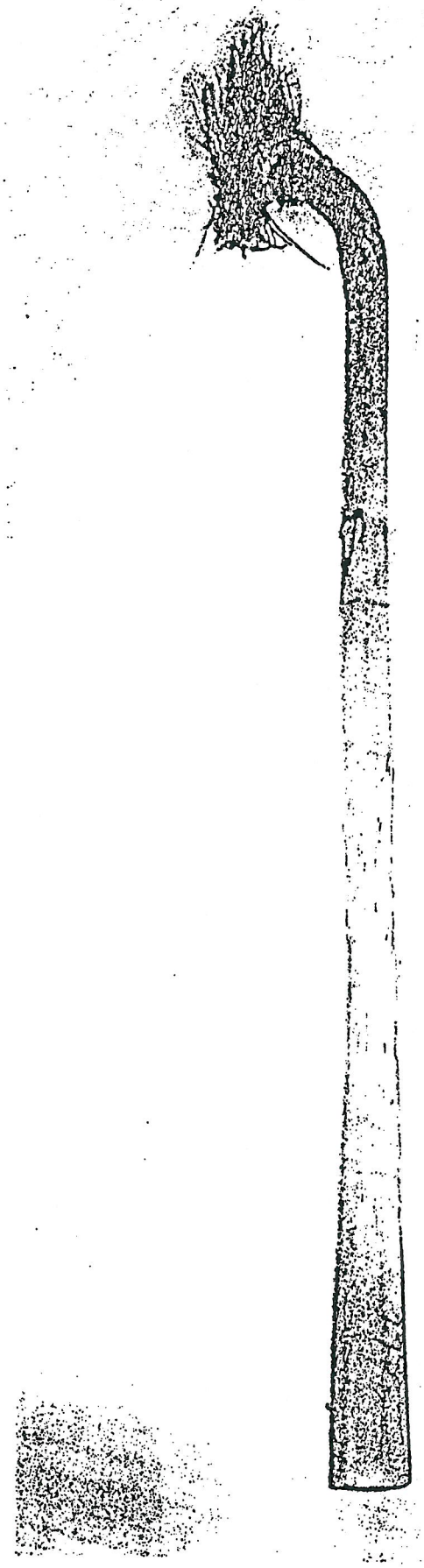
188. Cover for Food Dishes.
189. Fish-hook. The mode of fishing with these hooks adopted by the Maldivians is entirely different from that in use in Europe. No bait is put upon the hook, which is trailed astern of the fishing-boat at the end of a short line. When the large fish are seen, small fishes (a large number of which are carried in the wells of the boats) are thrown out, and the large fish in their eager pursuit swallow the white hooks, and are thus easily caught. The peculiar construction of the hook makes it easy to remove when the fish has been hauled on board. The number of fish thus taken is very great.
190. Medicine Plate.
191. Touchwood for procuring fire by friction.
192. Tortoiseshell Comb.
193. Fish-hook.
194. Spoon made from cocoanut shell.
195. *Kotta* of Cowrie Shells.
196. Maldive Mat of fine make.
197. Scales made of cocoanut shells from a European model, with weights.
198. Mat from Suwattiva Atol (*M. Tudukuna*).
199. Fishing line.
200. Spoon made from cocoanut.
201. Model of a kind of Cotton Reeler.
202. Mat from Suwattiva Atol.
203. Scales made of cocoanut shells from European model, with weights.
204. (*Machuda*) Sign placed before a house containing a sick person, the same as No. 170.
205. Rings for ornamenting swing-ropes.
206. Specimen of the best kind of Boatman's Cap.
207. Yellow and black coloured Cloth.
208. Red and black coloured Cloth.
209. Brown and green coloured Cloth
210. Violet and green coloured Cloth. These cloths are mostly manufactured in Edafuhri Island (Malosmadula Atol), and are chiefly remarkable on account of the great excellence of the dyes employed.

The price is much higher than that of the cloth imported from India, but the industry is very flourishing notwithstanding, as every one is expected to wear native-made cloth on public occasions.

211-215. Articles made by boys eight and sixteen years old.
216. Spoon made from a cocoanut shell, with wooden handle.
217. Knife made in the Maldives.
218. Finely-carved Baker's Knife, for turning cakes.
219. Mat from Suwattiva Atol.
220. Fine old Maldive Knife, whale-tooth handle, inlaid with silver. Old; no work of this kind is now produced in the islands.
221. (*Hunî*) Betel-box.
222. (*Kairu*) Bitter stuff (kind of Aloe) which is mixed with betel.
223. (*Hua*) Areca nut or betel.
224. (*Dannirgula veîli*) Sand used for cleaning the teeth.
225. (*Lahi*) Cocoanut wood measure for rice and salt.
226. (*Funwali*) Areca nut Cutter.
227. (*Gadumas*) First quality of Dried Fish
228. (*Boluma*) Second quality of Dried Fish.
229. (*Hanituma*) Third quality of Dried Fish.
230. (*Matuma*) Fourth quality of Dried Fish
231. (*Guti*) Measure for Rice.
232. (*Eggale*) A Weight.
233. (*Deggah*) A Weight.
234. (*Tuigah*) A Weight.
235. Two pieces of a Red Kite.
236. Piece of a Blue Kite. These kites may only be flown by permission of the Sultan from December to March.
237. Mat from Suwattiva Atol.
238. (*Diahigafu*) Water-chatty for boatman.
239. (*Hanu*) Grindstone.
240. (*Battafolli*) Rice-cleaner.
241. (*Gunninaga Fulley*) Kind of dust-pan made of cocoanut leaves.
242. (*Mandiladigandu*) Painted Tip-cat.
243. (*Wappa*) Instrument for cleaning wells.
244. (*Lambu*) Apparatus used by the natives in climbing trees.
245. (*Gondifu*) Touchwood, for obtaining fire by friction.
246. (*Dumfai*) Tobacco.

247. Mat from Suwattiva Atol.
248. (*Bonadanidi*) Stick used for catching insects.
249. (*Gunninaga Fulley*) Pair of Cocoanut Leaf Dust-pan.
250. (*Fangandu*) Plaited Cocoanut Leaf for covering roof.
251. Bundle of the different woods used in building.
252. (*Dumburidandi*) First quality building wood.
253. (*Manawalli*) Two Brass Sandal-pegs.
254. (*Kada Bali*) Silk Reel.
255. (*Gunninaga Fulley*) Pair of Cocoanut leaf Dust-pan.
256. (*Magudandi*) Second quality of building wood.
257. (*Kada Foli*) Reel of Silk.
258. (*Dalla*) Wooden Box, made in the Maldives.
259. Jeweller's Tools, specially used for making No. 159.
260. Mat from Suwattiva Atol.
261. (*Vimbudu Ronu*) First quality cordage, used in building.
262. (*Bulli*) Large Fish Hook.
263. (*Naabolli Sammussa*) Small Zinc Medicine Spoon, belongs to No. 253.
264. Small Jeweller's Pliers. 265. Medium-sized Jeweller's Pliers. 266. Large-sized Jeweller's Pliers. (*Handass.*)
267. (*Fir*) Wooden Cover for rice dish.
268. (*Dulu, Gorhi Barhi*) Designs cut out from a Cocoanut Shell.
269. (*Theondulli*) Sieve, finely carved.
270. (*Durra*) Handle of Instrument of Punishment, a sheet of leather studded with nails is fixed into this, with which from 20 to 100 blows are inflicted. The only instrument of corporal punishment on the Maldives is the *durra*, consisting of an oval shaped piece of stiff leather studded with nails and fitted to the handle here shown. With this 20 to 100 blows are inflicted according to the gravity of crime. The crimes for which corporal punishment are inflicted are theft, adultery and murder; in the latter two cases banishment to a distant (and often uninhabited) island is added. Mutilation and death are never inflicted now.
271. (*Firohi*) Cotton-reel, used by high castes.
272. (*Liaharri, Torufa, Kurahi*) Model of a Lathe. The Maldivians are very clever in turning.
273. (*Dallu Fehlia*) Head Covering for the Sultan's musicians.
274. (*Dawadu Dallu*) Stand for Ink-bottle.
275. (*Rabadi*) Bottle for holding sweetments, made out of two cocoanuts.
276. (*Maliafahi*) Wooden Box.
277. (*Dunkalie*) Linen drier.
278. (*Bombioli*) Cocoanut Wood Boat.
279. Mat from Suwattiva Atol.
280. (*Malorhi*) Cocoanut Leaf Basket for holding the sweepings of the houses.
281. Finely-worked Mat.
282. (*Dehefai*) Wooden Rice Stirrer.
283. (*Folie Dandigandu*) Wooden Knife for turning cakes.
284. (*Otimati Kutahi*) Wooden Dish for Rice.
285. Mat from Suwattiva.
286. (*Uikorrhe Savaka*) Cotton Spindle.
287. Mat from Suwattiva Atol.
288. (*Ballia Gehi Maliafai* (Large Wooden Box for carrying food.
289. (*Kehala Maliafai*) Large Wooden Box.
290. (*Mushi*) Jeweller's Hammer.
291. (*Fieroshi*) Reel for kite string.
292. (*Gondi*) Stool for low-castes.
293. (*Rahbati*) Cocoanut Bottle for holding cocoanut sweetmeat.
294. (*Gondifo*) Touchwood for obtaining fire by friction.
295. (*Firohi*) Handle for No. 293.
296. (*Kallulia Gehi Maliafai*) Wooden Dish.
297. (*Follidendiganna*) Wooden Knife.
298. (*Hetdurru*) Kite String.
299. (*Mollafehdi*) First quality stuff for under clothes.
300. Ordinary quality Mat.
301. (*Kurendi*) Wooden Box with Cover for holding a glass dish.
302. (*Fichgandu Gula*) Pipe-cleaner, brought from India.
303. (*Silimbu*) Pipe-bowl; the tobacco is put into the bowl first, then the plug, and above all the fire.
304. (*Lohfordi*) Plug for Pipe No. 276.
305. Good quality small Mat.
306. (*Dumbofai*) Tobacco.
307. (*Endu*) Model of Bed, as used by high castes.
308. (*Gottodie*) Mattress for No. 307.
309. (*Bittiorhi Kanneo*) Silk Pillow for back for No. 307.
310. (*Bolia Kanneo*) Silk Pillow for right side for No. 307.
311. (*Fahlia Kanneo*) Silk Pillow for left side for No. 307. All classes in the Maldives sleep on beds made in this fashion, which are swung to the rafters of the houses. High-caste beds have silk cushions over which is spread a mat similar to No. 1 or 2 of this collection, and the bed is hung by finely worked brass rods or chains, which are also sometimes further ornamented with silk cords and tassels. Middle castes' beds have cloth cushions covered by a mat similar to the No. 3 of this collection, and are suspended by iron chains or rods. Low castes' simply have straw covered by a mat similar to No. 4 of this collection on their beds, which are hung on coir ropes.

When a person is seriously ill, the bed is



BRUSH of COCOANUT-FIBER. ca.30 cm.
Völkerkunde Museeum. BERLIN.
PHOTO. 1885. ROSSET. VILGON Coll.

unhung, the legs are fixed, and it then rests on the ground.

The Maldive bed is the most important article of furniture in the houses, in fact it is almost the only one, and much pains are taken to make it as ornamental as possible.

312. Mat from Suwativa Atol.

313. (*Meluſehdi*) Second quality of Cotton Stuff for under clothes.

314. Ordinary quality of Mat.

315. (*Eidelli*) Mallet (belonging with Nos. 293 and 316) with which the cut pieces of sweetmeat are beaten flat.

316. (*Kammfalli*) Coconut-wood Knife for cutting sweetmeat.

317. Ordinary quality Mat.

318. (*Fuma*) Tortoiseshell Comb.

319. Tombstone for men. The size shows the caste; high caste have large, low castes small.

320. (*Bodu Lari*) Maldive Copper Coin. These coins are still struck at the Malé Mint; on one side is impressed the name of the reigning Sultan, on the other his title and the Mahomedan date.

The metal of which they are composed contains generally 83·54 per cent. copper, 2·61 per cent. tin, 13·78 per cent. zinc, and 0·07 per cent. iron; but it sometimes varies, the proportion of copper being occasionally as high as 95 to 97 per cent.

They are nominally worth about 25 to the rupee, but owing to scarcity they are generally only exchangeable at 20 to the rupee.

321. Finely-worked Mat.

322. "Sausage," coconut sweetmeat, wrapped in coconut leaves and cloth.

323. (*Kalulla*) Black Colour for painting woodwork.

324. Spoon made from coconut shell.

325. (*Batpenuge Sonsa*) Medicine Spoon.

326. Mat from Suwativa Atol.

327. (*Gunninaga Fulleſy*) Pair of Coconut-leaf Shovels for carrying sweet things.

328. (*Huadibondi*) Coconut Sweetmeat Sausage.

329. (*Kudulari*) Maldive Copper Money. Equals one quarter of a *bodu-lari*, No. 320.

330. (*Unduli*) Coconut-shell Spoon.

331. (*Raila*) Brown Colour for painting woodwork.

332. Good quality small Mat.

333. (*Lionumas*) Pot of Salt Fish.

334. (*Bindulla*) Yellow Colour for painting woodwork.

335. Coconut Scraper.

336. (*Huadibondi*) Coconut Sweetmeat Sausage.

337. (*Liaharri*) Model of Turning-Lathe.

338. Unfinished piece of turned wood, shown with No. 337.

339. (*Undali*) Spoon made from coconut shell.

340. (*Feihilla*) Green Colour for painting woodwork.

341. (*Gondigandu*) Rounded piece of Wood, used for polishing the colours on articles turned at the lathe.

342. (*Kearri*). 343. (*Liakearri*). 344. (*Tundukearri*). Models of Lathe Tools.

345. Woman's Tombstone. The size shows the caste. High castes have large, and low caste small stones.

346. Ordinary quality Mat.

347. Finely worked Mat.

348. Model of Rahbatie, or coconut sweetmeat-bottle, made by a young boy.

349. Fine quality small Mat.

350. (*Handas*) Jeweller's Pliers.

351. (*Liakearri*) Large size Lathe Tools.

352. (*Fatdurba*) Gold Chain, worn by women round the neck, and supporting various gold coins.

353. (*Gammfordamuti*) Finely worked Gold Earrings, with precious stones (high caste women). Twelve are worn in each ear.

354. Pair of Gold Earrings, for middle and low castes. One, two, or more are worn in each ear.

355. Mat from Suwativa Atol.

356. (*Larin*) Silver Money, called fish-hook money. These were in use in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, being at that time the only Maldivian coin. They were struck in Malé. Their value was about 12,000 cowries (*kotla*). For the purpose of making small payments the *larin* was usually cut; but this method had its disadvantages as a loss of one-twelfth was thereby incurred. These coins are now extremely rare.

357. Paper Lantern for Sultan and high castes.

358. Fine quality small Mat.

359. (*Addana*) Shield used by the Sultan's dancers and fencers, to protect themselves from the blows of their companions.

360. (*Raila*) Red Colour for painting turned woodwork.

361. (*Batpenposomsa*) Medicine Spoon.

362. Small Silver Maldive Coin.

363. (*Kalluru*) Jeweller's Shears.

364. (*Tundukearri*) Large-sized Lathe-Tool.

365. Large Silver Maldive Coin.

366. (*Derrafehdi*) Third quality Cotton Stuff for under clothes.

367. Mat from Suwativa.

368. Pot of Sweetmeat made by high castes.

369. (*Beru*) Large Tom-tom, can only be beaten with the Sultan's permission, or in the case of fire breaking out.

370. Maldive Mat.

371. (*Libe'e*) Silken Shirt for Sultan's Women, embroidered by the sister of the Prime Minister.

372. Telephone made in the Maldives on the Model of the Tong telephones sold in England; called by the natives Telegraph.

373. Maldive Mat

374. (*Emwarhi*) Small Net-work Baskets for catching up the little fishes carried in the wells of the fishing boats, and throwing them into the sea. (See under No. 189.)

375. Silk Shirt for high caste women, embroidered by the sister of the Prime Minister.

376. Maldive Mat.

377. Silk Shirt for middle caste women.

378. Silk Shirt for low caste women, these were embroidered by the sister of the Prime Minister.

Maldive Photographs.

H.H. Ibrahim Didi, Vizier to the Sultan (383).

Abdulla Didi, step-brother to the Vizier (384).

Totu Siddi Lebbe, a Muhammadan priest, and his son (379).

Manifullu Fatima Kilegefaau, Malo (380).

Group of girls embroidering and smoking (418).

High caste boy (415)

Two young high caste boys (409).

Low caste boy (410).

Turner working at his lathe (404).

The Sultan's band (385).

Audience Chamber, Sultan's Palace (386).

Game of Todu, two groups (381, 382).

Game of Malikutarra, two groups (388, 389).

House in Malo (401).

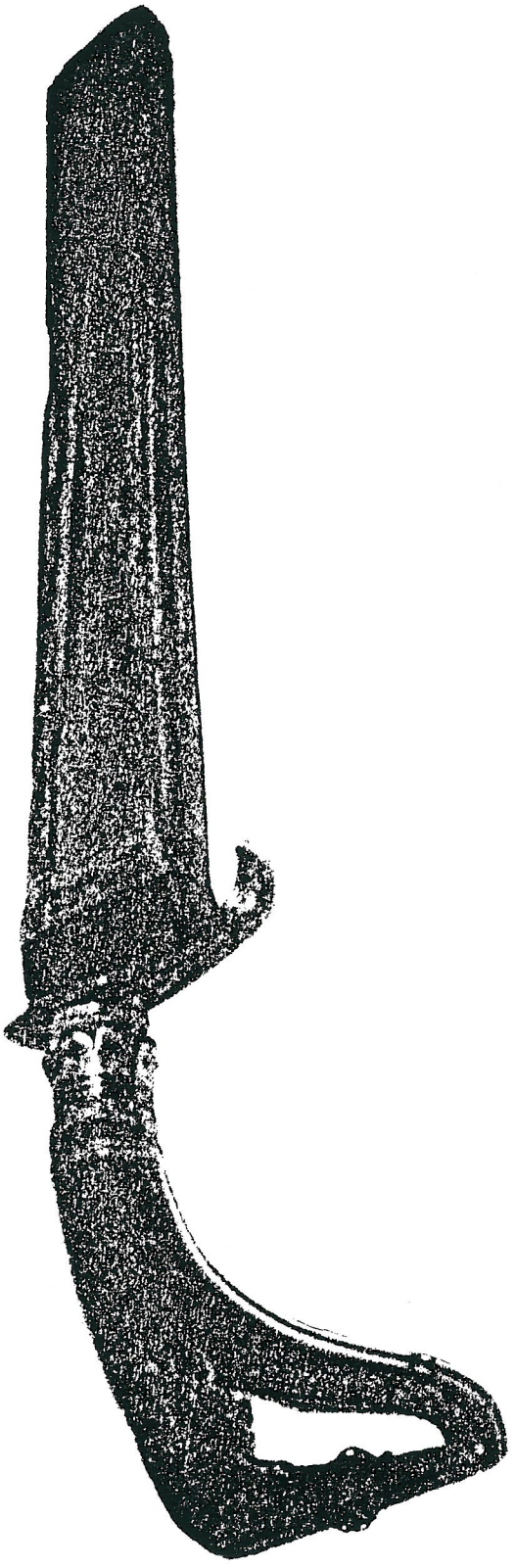
Grave of a high caste man (403).

Cemetery for the high caste people (400).

Cemetery for low caste people (402).

Minikoy Lighthouse, Laccadive Islands (417).

LONDON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, LIMITED, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS.



MALDIVE ISLAND CEREMONIAL KNIFE.
HANDLE of RINICEROS HORN. ca.30 cm.
Völkerkunde Museeum. BERLIN.
PHOTO. 1885. ROSSET. VILGON Coll.

1893. ROSSET, CARL WILLHELM.

IN: "Official Handbook & Catalogue of the Ceylon Courts" over the "World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, 1893", Pages 149-152, H.C. COTTLE, Government Printer, Colombo Ceylon 1893.

In 1893 the U.S.A. celebrated that is was 400 year since the continent was first reached by the Italian Christopher Columbo. In Illinois the "World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago", was arranged. These four pages contain the Maldive Part of the Exhibition's Catalogue, 222 articles exhibited by the Sultan IBRAHIM NOORUDIN ISKANDER, and 230 articles exhibited by the Ceylon Commission, i.e. in fact the collection made in Male town by the German Explorer CARL WILLHELM ROSSET in 1885. The collection was earlier shown in London 1886, and later in Berlin 1895. [ENGLISH]

World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, 1893.

OFFICIAL

HANDBOOK & CATALOGUE

OF THE

CEYLON COURTS.

With Map and Illustrations.



COLOMBO:
H. C. COTTLE, ACTING GOVERNMENT PRINTER, CEYLON.
1893.



COCOANUT FLASK MADE of
TWO ORNAMENTED COCOCNUTS. ca.40 cm.
Völkerkunde Museeum. BERLIN.
PHOTO. 1885. ROSSET. VILGON Coll.

IX. Models of Natives of Ceylon, showing Costumes.

1 Buddhist monk
1302 Colombo Chetty
1303 Low-country headman
1304 Kandyan chief
1305 Sinhalese woman wearing antique villiage bridal costume

X Collective Exhibit: Maldivian Articles.

Presented to Ceylon Government by the late Sultan Ibrahim Noorudin Iskander.

1 Six gold bangles
2 Set 24 gold earrings
3 Gold necklace of twelve chains
4 Large mat, black and white stripes
5 Sultan's ship, large
6 and 7 Sultan's ship, small
8 Fishing boat
9 Life boat
10 Game board with 18 holes
11 Game called naranchi
12 Tops, whipping
13 Tops
14 Chess board
15 and 16 Toys (tip cat game)
17 and 18 Tops
19 Flageolet
20 and 21 Plates for rubbing sandalwood
22 Cowries
23 Pipe
24 Game
25 and 26 Drums
27 Vessel for keeping betel
28 to 30 Boxes used for sending presents
31 Wooden box for betel
32 Vessel for water
33 Vessel for sweetmeats
34 Vessel for water
35 Vessel for flour
36 Glass case for water
37 Case for keeping medicines
38 and 39 Medicine boxes
40 Box with three rooms
41 Jewelry box
42 Wooden needle
43 Bamboo pen
44 Ladle
45 Stand for keeping books
46 and 47 Wooden sandals
48 to 53 Boxes for holding plates
54 Wood-turning machines
55 Thread twister
56 Fisher's cap
57 Handkerchief for female turbans
58 Stand for making lace
59 Bottle of kurakkan seed
60 Meneri seed
61 Turban for females
62 Handkerchiefs for males
63 Turban for males
64 Stand for making gold lace
65 Bottle of meneri seed
66 Turban for males
67 A phial of medicine
68 Six pieces comboys
69 Parcel, two pairs trousers
70 Parcel, two shirts
71 Six comboys
72 Parcel. 4 comboys
73 Shirt
74 Piece cloth
75 Seruval silk
76 Parcel, 4 pieces comboys
77 and 76 One piece comboy
79 and 80 Shirts
81 Parcel, 2 pieces comboys
82 Parcel, 2 pairs trousers
83 Parcel, 3 cloths
84 Inferior cloth
85 and 86 Six pieces cloth
87 Cloth for trousers
88 and 89 Best shirts for males
90 Real thread
91 Roller for making rottie
92 Drumstick
93 Shield
94 Six pieces sick laces
95 and 96 Phials (scent)
97 Wooden plate
98 Whipping tops
99 Chisels for carving
100 Couch swing
101 Couch or bed
102 Footstool bench
103 Thread-twisting machine
104 Rat trap
105 Balance
106 Gem polisher

107 Pingo(for carrying toddy)
108 and 109 Vessels for toddy
110 Winnower
111 Cocoanut leaf basket
112 Vessel for straining cocoanut milk
113 Cocoanut leaf for wrapping the cocoanut flower
114 Spoons
115 Brush for cleaning cocoanut shells
116 Ladle for taking water
117 Copperah squeezer
118 Carved spoons
119 Vessel for taking water
120 Stick used in hammering cocoanut flowers for toddy
121 A net used in throwing out live bait from water
122 Ladle used in throwing water
123 Drill
124 Adze
125 Knives
126 Knife used in cutting cocoanut flowers
127 Knife for cutting fish
128 Ekel covers
129 Vessel for keeping paint
130 Carpenter's lining thread
131 Jar covers
132 Cocoanut scraper
133 Folding cocoanut scraper
134 Rice stirrrer
135 Knife
136 Chisel
137 Planer
138 Knife
139 Fish knife
140 Axe
141 Net
142 Mat
143 Pillow
144 Net
145 Basket for taking dirt
146 Cocoanut milk strainer
147 Basket with cover for sweetmeats
148 Wooden knife used by confectioers
149 Mat sail, small
150 Mat sail, large
151 Mat bags
152 to 159 Bundles of coir
160 Cocoanuts
161 Brooms
162 Ekel brooms
163 One bundle fishing implements
164 to 168 Cocoanuts
169 Mortar
170 Pestle
171 to 179 Bottles of sweetmeats
180 Basket
181 Rolls
182 and 183 Tamborines
184 to 187 Kites
188 and 189 Sticks
190 Weapon
191 Spear used in processions
192 Fancy stick
193 and 194 Sticks used in processions
195 Carved wood
196 Spear
197 Knife
198 Weapon
199 and 200 Tombstones
201 to 220 Mats
221 Net
222 Bag cowries

XI—Collective Exhibits: Maldivian Articles.

The Ceylon commission

1 Box for sweetmeats
2 Dish cover
3 Plate
4 Three medicine plates
5 Womans' comboy
6 Girls' do
7 Childs' do
8 Set of six silver bangles
9 do
10 Large lacquer box
11 Small do
12 Lacquer tumbler
13 Set of brass bangles
14 Two gold chains
15 Silver waist chain
16 Piece of coral
17 Five rings made from above

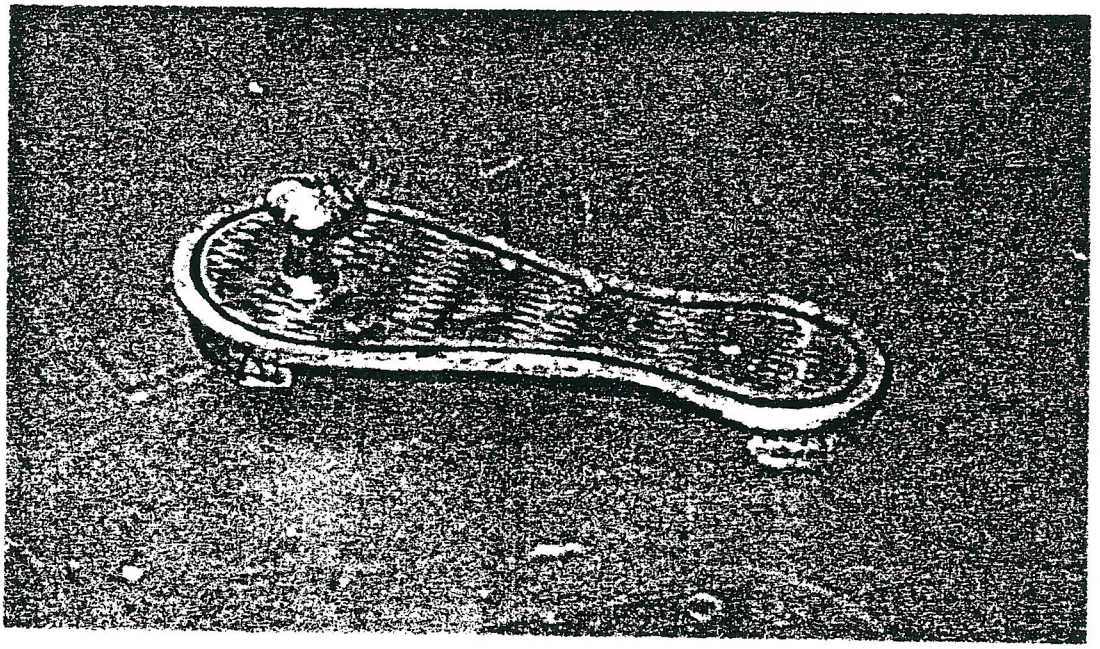


COMB of TURTLE SHELL. ca.20 cm.
Völkerkunde Museeum. BERLIN.
PHOTO. 1885. ROSSET. VILGON Coll.

18 Lace pillows, 17 bobbins, and 2 gold laces
19 Reel for thread
20 Stopper for water pipe
21 Small top
22 Set of 23 gold earrings
23 Ivory handled knife
24 Waist ornaments
25 Turban
26 Cloth
27 Belt
28 Small mat
29 Game with 16 men and 6 cowrie dice
30 Top with string
31 Common knife
32 Small lacqur tray
33 Ivory handled knife
34 Set of chess
35 Large top
36 Grindstone
37 Hat stand
38 Grindstone
39 Window curtain
40 Woman's jacket
41 Nine-stone game
42 Milk strainer
43 Knife with black carved handle
44 Do
45 Lacquered tumblers
46 Common mat
47 Mat
48 Do
49 Do
50 Do
51 Do
52 Do
53 Rice washer
54 Milk warmer
55 Chisel
56 Gauge
57 Brush
58 Game called marriage
59 Book stand
60 Casting net
61 Woman's chess
62 Lacquered tumbler
63 Box for finger glass
64 Lacquered box
65 Box mill with turned off lid
66 Fish knife
67 Cotton reel
69 Cake stamp
70 Water ladle
71 Brush
72 Do
73 Ruler
74 Nest of boxes
75 Common box
76 Rice measure
77 Nautilas cup and spoon
78 Nautilas spoon
79 Laquer box
80 Barber's knife box
81 Cocoanut scraper
82 Spoon nautilas
83 Small carved tumbler
84 Pair of pattens
85 Dish cover
86 Stool
87 Ornament for waist belt
88 Small box
89 Fishing rod, line, and hook
90 Bottle-shaped box
91 Candlestick
92 Axe
93 Knife with silver handle
94 Small basket net
95 Common knife
96 Big hook for turtle fishing
97 Feather hat
98 Net
99 Cocoanut leaf basket
100 Child's ring
101 Arecannts
102 Do
103 Do
104 Long handled knife
105 Six playing sticks
106 Tambourine
107 Scales
108 Kite
109 Medicine dish
110 Black box
111 Water drawer
112 Sweetmeat box
113 Tortoiseshell needles
114 Sweetmeat tray ruler
115 Boat baler
116 Game of tip-cat
117 Large knife
118 Knife
119 Very large black-handled knife
120 Large axe
121 Black and yellow box
122 Three child's playing sticks

123 Two dancers sticks
124 Double chunam box
126 Set of four swing rings
127 Fly wisp
128 Lacquered pot
129 Baker's knife
130 Tin nautilus
131 do
132 Thread winder
133 Holder for burning wood
134 Pillow
135 Six rings and bangles used by the poor
136 Two anklets used by the the poor
137 Gold chains
138 Finely lacquered box
139 Shark's hook
140 and 141 Knitting needle (lacquered)
142 Rice sifter
143 Rice isay
144 Child's swing
145 Chopping knife
146 Scoop
147 and 148 Ivory knitting needles
149 Flower stand
150 Green box
151 and 152 Rakes
153 Child's cap
154 Fly wisp
155 Cover for incense burner
156 Cocoanut squeezer
157 Cowrie weight
158 Cocoanut measure
159 Plate
160 Knife in pith sheath
161 Cake mould
162 Drill
163 Gouge
164 Chisel
165 Large gouge
166 Double cocoanut (for toddy drawer)
167 Very small cocoanut
168 do
169 Box
171 Tooth sand box
172 Cocoanut basket
173 and 174 Two knives One coir brush
175 Pair of pattens
176 Brass bangles
177 Box for finger glass
178 Toddy-drawer's knife
179 Coir basket
180 Lacquer box
181 Knife in sheath
182 Plate
183 Rice measure
184 Wooden dish
185 Cocoanut scraper
186 Cotton reel
187 Carved cocoanut
188 do
189 Common box
190 Boat bailer
191 Book siving
193 (Unknown) probably a net needle
194 Hat
195 Hat
196 Pair of small bellows
197 Bag of cowries
198 Mat sail
199 and 200 Cadjans
201 Diamond-shaped plate
202 Covered basket with Maldive characters
203 Cocoanut squeezer
204 Paddy pounder
205 Cake stamp
206 Dhoby's lathe
207 Cocoanut beater
208 Haum glass
209 Model paddy pounder
210 Rice mortar
211 Pipe, hubble-bubble
212 Cover for scent bottle
213 Box with scales
214 Doctor's pestle and mortar
215 Cocoanut spoon
216 Sling for dwellings
217 Big top
218 Six small cocoanuts
219 Silver ornament for waist belt
220 Dust pan
221 Scent bottle in silk case
222 Bodkin with plume
223 Rice stirrer
224 Confectionery knife
225 Drill chuck
226 Box with lock and key
227 Nine-stone game
228 Flageolet
229 Yellow jar
230 Cake box, large





SANDAL of WOOD and BRASS "BUTTON".
ROSSET. 1885. Völkerkunde Museeum.
Völkerkunde Museeum. BERLIN.
PHOTO. 1885. ROSSET. VILGON Coll.

1904—1910. BELL, HARRY C P

IN: PAPERS RELATING TO THE MALDIVE ISLANDS, Part II, 56 Pages and Part III, 54 Pages. By: HARRY CHARLES PURVIS BELL. Never Published but printed and distributed in a few copies. Colombo 1910.

From his Maldive visit in 1879 to his death in 1937, Mr. H. C. P. Bell collected all Maldive information he could find in the various places in the entire world. In 1910 he compiled the Book of 215 pages, and it contains 327 "Letters", divided into three parts

"Part One" contains "General Papers 1887-1904", about the Maldive Islands, and was already printed in "Ceylon Sessional Papers 1904". A facsimile copie is in my "Maldive Odd History, Vol. 5." 103 P.
"Part Two" contains "Political Papers 1904-1910". Vol. 6. 56 P.
"Part Three" contains "Miscellaneous Papers 1904-1910" Vol. 6. 54 P.

The whole book is (was), as far as I have found out, in the entire world known in two copies. 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 and competent hands. It is BELL's own original copy, filled with hundreds of additions and notes. My two microfilms, London negative and Colombo positive, are open for research. [ENGLISH]

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PAPERS

RELATING TO

THE MALDIVE ISLANDS.

PART II.

(POLITICAL, 1904–1910.)

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NOTES.

(1) For list of Sultans and genealogical table, *see* pages 20 and 21 in Part III.
(2) For note on political parties in Malé, *see* page 18 in Part III.

Secretariat, Colombo,
September 21, 1910.

PAPERS RELATING TO THE MALDIVE ISLANDS.

1904-1910.

PART II.

Payment of Debt incurred by ex-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din.

No. 118.*

From Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldive Islands,
to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

WE beg to inform Your Excellency that we have sent in the hands of our Envoy, Minister Ahamed Didi Kuda Dori Mena Kilegifan, the sum of Rs. 10,000 as we promised, being the instalment for December next of the debt of Rs. 20,000 incurred by Muhammad Imad-ud-din to Taib Aly Jeevunjee Noorbhai, Merchant, while the former was Sultan of Maldives, to be paid through your Government. The balance Rs. 10,000 will be paid in December, 1905.

Malé, Maldives, 20th Shanban, 1322.
(October 30, 1904.)

No. 119.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to Ahamed Didi Effendi.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, December 3, 1904.

SIR,—I AM directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has received a letter from H. H. the Sultan of the Maldives intimating that you have been entrusted with a sum of Rs. 10,000 to be paid to Mr. T. A. J. Noorbhai, in part liquidation of the debt of Rs. 20,000 owing to him by the *ex*-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din.

2. I am to request you to pay the amount in person direct to Mr. Noorbhai in the presence of proper witnesses, of whom an officer of the Secretariat and the Chief Tamil Interpreter Mudaliyar to the Ceylon Government should be two. The payment can be made at this office if both Mr. Noorbhai and you agree for your joint convenience on that as a place of meeting.

E. B. DENHAM.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 120.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, December 12, 1904.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Highness' letter dated the 20th day of Shanban, 1322, corresponding to October 30, 1904, intimating the remittance of a sum of Rs. 10,000 by your Ambassador, in part liquidation of the debt of Rs. 20,000 owing to Mr. T. A. J. Noorbhai by the *ex*-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din.

2. The payment was duly made by your Ambassador direct to Mr. Noorbhai, who furnished a receipt in presence of an officer of the Secretariat.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE.
Governor.

No. 121.

Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldive Islands,
to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY His Excellency's position be exalted!

We beg to inform Your Excellency that we have sent a sum of Rs. 10,000 by our Ambassador, Ameer Abdul Hamid Didi, to be handed over to your Government, being the balance of the Rs. 20,000 borrowed by Muhammad Imad ud-din to be paid to Taib Aly Jeevunjee Noorbhai, from whom the amount had been taken while the former was Sultan of Maldives.

May you live long!

Malé, Maldives, 10th Savval, 1323.
(December 8, 1905.)

* The numbers are in continuation of those in Part I.

No. 122.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to E. Abdul Hamid Didi Effendi, Maldivian Ambassador, Colombo.

Colonial Secretary's Office.
Colombo, January 17, 1906.

SIR,—I AM directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has received a letter from H. H. the Sultan of the Maldives intimating that you have been entrusted with a sum of Rs. 10,000 to be paid to Mr. T. A. J. Noorbhai, in final settlement of the debt owing to him by the *ex*-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din.

2. I am to request you to pay the amount in person direct to Mr. Noorbhai in the presence of proper witnesses, of whom an officer of the Secretariat and the Chief Tamil Interpreter Mudaliyar to the Ceylon Government should be two. The payment can be made at this office if both Mr. Noorbhai and you agree for your joint convenience on that as a place of meeting.

F. J. SMITH.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 123.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's House.
Colombo, January 29, 1906.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Highness' letter dated the 10th Savval, 1323, corresponding to December 8, 1905, of the Christian era, intimating the remittance of a sum of Rs. 10,000 by your Ambassador, in final settlement of the debt of Rs. 20,000 due to Mr. T. A. J. Noorbhai by the *ex*-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din.

2. The payment was duly made by your Ambassador direct to Mr. Noorbhai, who furnished a receipt in presence of an officer of the Secretariat.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

Appointment of Ibrahim Didi as Prime Minister.

No. 123*a*.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives,
to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

Translation.

MAY his position be still exalted!

THIS is to inform Your Excellency that Haj Ibrahim Didi Effendi, the husband of my aunt, and known as "Bideri Mena Kilegifan," whom we summoned from Colombo, has been appointed to the post of Prime Minister by us, he having held the same position under my late father Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din Iskandar. His appointment has been hailed with pleasure by me and by all the Government officials and the inhabitants as already stated in our letter of June 20, 1903.

Our country at present is in very good order, peace, and security, and free from oppression and disorder, the result of discreet and well-conducted Government.

May you live long!

Dated Malé, Maldives, 20th day of Shanban, 1322.
(October 30, 1904.)

No. 123*b*.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar,
Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, December 5, 1904.

YOUR HIGHNESS.—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Highness' letter bearing date the 20th day of Shanban, 1322, corresponding to October 30, 1904, of the Christian era, intimating that you have appointed Haj Ibrahim Didi Effendi as your Prime Minister.

I am, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE.

Petition from Ex-Sultan Imad-ud-din regarding Claim against him by Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee.

No. 124.

I, MUHAMMAD IMAD-UD-DIN ISKANDAR, *ex*-Sultan of the Maldive Islands, beg respectfully to inform His Excellency Sir A. M. Ashmore, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor of Ceylon, of the following facts :—

One Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee of Colombo was engaged by me when I was Sultan as my Secretary, and his services were determined at the end of May, 1903. In November, 1903, Dadabhoy instituted a suit against me in the District Court of Colombo for the recovery of Rs. 4,300, claiming the same as his salary up to August 31, 1903.

I was at this time temporarily occupying a house in Kollupitiya, into which I had moved on my return from Suez preparatory to proceeding to the Maldives. Owing to certain political events in my kingdom I had to return to Suez.

Upon a false return of service of summons on me Dadabhoy obtained a decree *nisi* against me, and copy of this decree was served on me when I was at Suez. I promptly took steps to have that decree set aside, and this application was allowed by the District Judge, and I was permitted to file answer in the case.

As I was ill and unable to leave Suez, I requested my lawyers to obtain a Commission to take my evidence there. These applications for a Commission were opposed by Dadabhoy, and were disallowed by the District Judge.

I appealed against this order. Mr. Dornhorst, K.C., appeared for me. The Chief Justice set aside this order of the District Court and allowed my application for a Commission. The Commission was subsequently sent addressed to the British Pro-Consul at Suez. I appeared before him and wanted him to take down my evidence in full, but he stopped me and told me that all I had to do was to answer three questions and nothing more ; and he accordingly proceeded to record in brief terms, as I now find, only replies to these questions.

I was very seriously prejudiced by this conduct of the Pro-Consul, doubtless caused by ignorance of the rules of procedure in these matters.

I did not subscribe my name to the statement. This circumstance, too, went against me. So that when the case came up for trial before the District Court, Dadabhoy's version only was recorded.

Dadabhoy called evidence to prove that two bills for Rs. 700 drawn in his favour were honoured by the Maldivian Government. I was not aware of any of these arrangements, which, it is alleged, were made by one of my Ministers, Hakura Manikfan.

My counsel's motion to read my evidence taken on Commission, such as it was, was objected to, and the objection was upheld by the court. And the evidence on record being all on one side, the Judge entered judgment for plaintiff.

I came to Colombo promptly to re-open the case, but have been advised that this cannot be done.

There is also now a decision of one of His Britannic Majesty's Court of Judicature against me upholding a claim preferred for work alleged to be done for me when I was Sultan of the Maldive Islands. My means are limited, and I have no property.

The Government of Ceylon expressed its inclination to see that the Maldive Government pays all debts incurred when I was Sultan. I now beg that in view of the fact that a judgment has been recorded against me, and that for a claim for services rendered to me while I was Sovereign of the Maldives, that Your Excellency may be graciously pleased to request the Maldivian Government to settle this claim.

The troubles insidiously fomented in my kingdom during my temporary absence from it, and culminating in my loss of the sovereignty, have in a great measure affected my health and fortunes.

This fresh misfortune coming in this manner now compels me to seek at Your Excellency's hands the relief I am asking for. I venture to submit that in the circumstances of the case judgment must in justice be met by the Maldivian Government, and I earnestly hope that Your Excellency will recommend that Government to make good the same.

Colombo, November 13, 1905. MUHAMMAD IMAD-UD-DIN.

No. 125.

Memorandum by Mr. E. B. Denham, C.C.S.

PAPERS put up :—

(1) Petition* presented by the *ex*-Sultan of the Maldives, Muhammad Imad-ud-din, stating that Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee had obtained a decree against him, and praying that the Maldivian Government be ordered to meet the claim.
(2) Extracts† from the Maldivian papers giving history of Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee in the Maldives.
(3) Reports‡ on the movements of Hassan Didi, an *ex*-Maldivian Minister.
(4) Report§ by Sir John Keane and Mr. Denham on their recent visit to the Maldives.

Taking (1) and (2) together, it appears that—

(*a*) The case brought by Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee against the *ex*-Sultan is probably collusive, as the former was the *ex*-Sultan's favourite and one of the chief causes of his deposition. He has therefore everything to gain from the return of the *ex*-Sultan to the Maldives (*vide* passages marked A in No. 126).

* See No. 124. † See No. 126. ‡ See No. 131. § See Enclosures Nos. 1 and 2 in No. 274 in Part III.

(*b*) The *ex*-Sultan states in paragraph 2 of his petition that Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee was engaged by him as his Secretary. But, *vide* passage marked AA in No. 126, in which the *ex*-Sultan distinctly declared in a letter to Sir West Ridgeway (June 26, 1903) that Dadabhoy "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." But from the claim it is clear that he was paying Dadabhoy Rs. 17,200 a year as Secretary, and Secretary to the Sultan is a very important post in the Maldives. The admission in itself would be fatal to his claim that the present Maldivian Government should pay the debt.

(*c*) It is clear that the Government of the Maldives expected that some claim of this kind would be brought forward (*vide* passage marked B), and that they were not liable to meet it was admitted by Mr. Everard im Thurn (his report on his visit to the Maldives).

(*d*) It is extremely improbable that Dadabhoy would not have addressed the Ceylon Government with regard to his claim if it was a *bona fide* one. He knows that the Sultan has no means, except his pension, which is paid him in Egypt by the Ceylon Government. The case is said to have been instituted in November, 1903, two years ago, and immediately after the Sultan's deposition.

(*e*) It is significant that only a few weeks after the *ex*-Sultan's arrival here Hassan Didi should escape from the atoll where he was exiled and now be in communication with his former master (*vide* passages marked X in No. 131, The Movements of Hassan Didi).

(*f*) All revolutions in the Maldives are assisted by one or other of the principal Parsee firms; in this case it appears to be that of Carimjee Jafferjee (*vide* passages marked Y in No. 131).

(*g*) The connection between Hassan Didi and Carimjee Jafferjee and between Dadabhoy and Carimjee Jafferjee is shown in the passages marked C in No. 126, where Hassan Didi is mentioned as advising special privileges being given to this firm, and Dadabhoy borrows Rs. 1,000 from them for the Sultan. Carimjee Jafferjee at that time assisted this party against the Sultan, but apparently only because he hoped to make more out of them and after his terms were rejected by the *ex*-Sultan, to whom he would scarcely have lent Rs. 1,000 if he had known he would be deposed.

(*h*) It is quite probable that Carimjee Jafferjee is now again asking more than Ibrahim Didi—the present Prime Minister of the Maldives—will give, and so he is trying to create another revolution with the help of Hassan Didi and the instrument—the *ex*-Sultan, for whose presence in Ceylon Dadabhoy's case is to account.

(*i*) The present situation is fostered by the presence of the *ex*-Sultan in Colombo. The plot is no doubt to get him on to a boat and attempt a landing in the Maldives. The *ex*-Sultan's choice of the G. O. H. as his residence in Colombo is probably due to its proximity to the harbour.

(*j*) Considerable tension is no doubt being caused in the Maldives. Ibrahim Didi's third son is now in Colombo watching the conspirators. He informed me that the soldiers in Malé had been under arms for weeks together.

(*k*) It may probably end in Carimjee Jafferjee enriching himself at the expense of both parties, one of them the Maldivian Treasury.

November 21, 1905. E. B. DENHAM.

No. 126.

Extracts from Papers relating to Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee.

April 7, 1900.—Mr. W. T. Taylor to Governor Sir J. West Ridgeway.

1. His Highness said 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 that 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 Captain 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. | A

April, 1903.—Ministers of the Maldives to Governor Sir J. West Ridgeway.

2. He (Sultan Imad-ud-din) also gave a power of attorney to a Parsee named Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee, and granted him great powers in the letter, authorizing a loan of Rs. 75,000 by whatever means, and we have sent those two copies with this letter to your Excellency. | A

May 10, 1903.—Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar to Governor Sir J. West Ridgeway.

3. 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 Musuji 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. | AB

May 10, 1903.—Governor Sir J. West Ridgeway to Hon. Mr. E. F. im Thurn.

4. It will be left to him (Sultan Imad-ud-din) to decide whether he takes his bride and all his suite with him, but I think we should insist on his not taking Mr. Dadabhoy 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. | A

More particularly I must require assurance that, as required above, he will leave behind him Mr. Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee, and that he will not allow this man to return to Malé without previous reference to this Government.

May 21, 1903.—Hon. Mr. E. F. im Thurn to Governor Sir J. West Ridgeway.

5. These alleged acts (of maladministration) are of three classes :—

A (2) Relinquishment of all real power to his brothers-in-law, and more especially to the foreign adventurer Dadabhoy. It is possible, and even probable, that Dadabhoy and the brothers-in-law were harsh in their methods of exacting contributions from the Maldivians. As to the remaining charge, I think there can be absolutely no doubt that most of the recent troubles in the Maldives have been almost
A 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.

May 20, 1903.—Report on his Visit to Malé by the Hon. Mr. E. F. im Thurn.

6. Complaints against Sultan Imad-ud-din by Sultan Sams-ud-din :—

(*a*) 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 Dadabhoy. This
A latter offence, he said, had by itself so displeased the Maldivians that they would never again accept Imad-ud-din as Sultan.

(*b*) 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,
B 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.

(*c*) Details of Imad-ud-din's maladministration as given by the leaders of the people:—
A Extravagance, favouritism to his own relations and to Dadabhoy, the power of attorney absolutely unconstitutionally given, &c.

(*d*) The revenues of the island of Maduwari are said always to have been assigned for the
A maintenance of the Muhammadan religion, until Imad-ud-din recently seized upon them and delivered them over to Dadabhoy.

May 22, 1903.—Barr Kumarakulasinhe, Mudaliyar, to the Hon. the Lieutenant-Governor.

A 7. The powers of attorney granted to Mr. Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee and Hakura Manikfan brought matters to a crisis, and influenced the people to take the immediate action they have taken.

June 15, 1903.—Governor Sir J. West Ridgeway in Legislative Council in reply to the Hon. Mr. W. G. Rockwood, M.D.

8. Occasionally when we have had to offer him advice and warning, he (Sultan Imad-ud-din) has neither heeded our warning nor taken our advice, and more especially when he engaged in his service a
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 on 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.

June 17, 1903.—Governor Sir J. West Ridgeway to the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain.

9. 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
A having, in the face of our remonstrances, retained in his service, and as one of his principal advisers, the Parsee, Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee, 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.

June 26, 1903.—Sultan Imad-ud-din to Governor Sir J. West Ridgeway.

10. 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.
AA 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 specially 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
C 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 Hakura Manikfan, 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, Hakura Manikfan, 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
C 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.

(7)

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.

August 24, 1903.—The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to Sultan Sams-ud-din.

11. 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.

September 4, 1903.—Sultan Sams-ud-din to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

12. 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.

November 27, 1903.—Sultan Sams-ud-din to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

13. 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.

No. 127.

Minutes of the Interview with the *ex*-Sultan at Temple Trees at 12 noon on November 25, 1905.

Present :—1. His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.
2. Mr. E. B. Denham, Private Secretary.
3. Muhammad Imad-ud-din Iskandar, *ex*-Sultan of the Maldives.
4. Accompanied by his Interpreter Habibu.
5. E. Abdul Hamid Didi, Principal Collector of Customs, Maldives, representing the present Sultan's Government.
6. Hassan Didi Wilana Manikfan.
7. Carimjee Jafferjee.
8. Abdul Careem, Maldivian Interpreter to the Ceylon Government.
9. The Tamil Mudaliyar.

Proceedings.—1. The various gentlemen present were introduced to the Lieutenant-Governor.

2. His Excellency informed the *ex*-Sultan that he believed the case brought against him by Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee was a false case, and that the amount claimed by Dadabhoy would certainly not be paid by the Ceylon or the Maldivian Government.

3. His Excellency next inquired of Hassan Didi why he had come to Ceylon. Hassan Didi said that he had escaped from the atoll where he had been banished on account of the cruelty to which he had been subjected; he ascribed his treatment to the hostility of Ibrahim Didi. The present Sultan of the Maldives is married to his granddaughter, and it is only Ibrahim Didi who is responsible for his banishment.

His Excellency stated that the Ceylon Government would not interfere in the matter, and would not allow any one else to do so. Hassan Didi was at liberty to live here or in India, provided he did not attempt to foment trouble in the Maldives.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor informed Carimjee Jafferjee that the Bombay merchants were at the bottom of all the troubles in the Maldives, and warned him that if there were any further trouble, merchants would be given licenses to trade in the Maldives, and these licenses would be liable to be cancelled.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor informed the *ex*-Sultan that he should return at once to Suez, or his pension would be stopped. The *ex*-Sultan expressed his willingness to go, and said that he was detained only on account of the case brought against him by Dadabhoy Nusserwanjee. The Lieutenant-Governor said that this case need not detain him. He then stated that he would engage a passage on a steamer leaving to-morrow.

The Conference closed at 12.45 P.M.

Hassan Didi.

No. 128.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

Translation.

May his position be exalted!

This is to inform Your Excellency that Hassan Didi Malige and his sons Muhammad Didi and Ibrahim Didi and Saikragaya and others who had been exiled to the islands in Haddunumattee atolls belonging to Maldives, owing to their enmity to our Government and misbehaviour in our country, have been secretly collecting guns and pistols and ammunition through their people in our country and risen against the Governor and his people and the subjects in those atolls, by force of arms and shot at the Governor and others and knocked them down, and the inhabitants were frightened at the arms. When the leaders, to wit, Hassan Didi and his people, knew that they could act as they wished, they plundered the people and the Government of money and things, &c., and loaded them in two boats and made their escape, and no trace of them has been found as yet. We believe that they are proceeding either to Ceylon or Minicoy Islands. We beg Your Excellency to seize them and the things should they reach any of the British possessions and send them here.

Our Ambassador will reach you in November and will acquaint you with all the facts, and give their description to enable the Government to arrest them.

May you live long.

The Palace, Malé, Maldives, 23rd Shanban, 1323.
(October 23, 1905.)

No. 129.

Hassan Didi to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Ceylon.

May it please Your Excellency.—Your Excellency's humble and loyal subject, Haji Hassan Didi Wilana Manikfan, of the Maldive Islands, begs most respectfully to be permitted to bring to Your Excellency's notice the cruel wrongs he has suffered at the hands of the Prime Minister, Ibrahim Didi, who has treated him with the greatest injustice, and subjected him to hardships which he could no longer endure, and from which he had to flee to Your Excellency for justice and protection.

Ibrahim Didi, as Your Excellency is aware, has had a career which does not reflect the slightest credit on him. He has from time to time proved himself to be so obnoxious to the Sultans that he has been banished for his misdeeds. He was at one time found guilty of incendiarism and was banished. Again, during the reign of the present Sultan's predecessor, Ibrahim Didi was banished. It was only on a new Sultan's coming to the throne that a general amnesty was granted to all political prisoners, and Ibrahim Didi, profiting by it, returned to the Maldives after an exile of some years.

The history of Ibrahim Didi will show that Sultans have always been mere puppets in the hands of this arch-intriguer, and that all business is managed by him and his coterie, and the Sultans have generally not had the slightest control over him.

On the return of Ibrahim Didi to the Maldives in the decline of his life he was impelled with the sole desire to enrich himself and his sons before his death, and to attain this end he has not hesitated to resort to violence and trickery. The administration of the whole island is in the hands of Ibrahim Didi, his sons, and his brother. In order that there might not be any opposition to his schemes of self-aggrandisement, all the leading men were banished, Your Excellency's servant being one of them. In all about 120 high officials have been banished, and their places taken by Ibrahim Didi's myrmidons. Amongst those banished are the Chief Justice, Kazi Naiboo Tutu; Ahmed Didi Hakura Manikfan, Dura Didi Fandaru Manikfan, Musa Dahara Kalafan, Ministers; Ali Didi, Treasurer; Marfai Kiligfan (of the Royal Family).

The revenue is now being appropriated by Ibrahim Didi, and he seizes every opportunity of oppressing the people and exacting as much money as he could from them. Your Excellency's servant was banished to Mafuri island, his property was confiscated and appropriated by Ibrahim Didi, who had all the products of his property in Fanado island seized by one Feldo Mahommed. His boats which were at Malé were destroyed by Ibrahim Didi by fire. Ibrahim Didi forcibly removed your servant's daughter-in-law and gave her over to his brother as a concubine. During my banishment I was not supplied with food, and was subjected to such great cruelties and hardships that I found life unendurable, and my life endangered to so great an extent, that I was forced to flee to Your Excellency for protection.

When Ibrahim Didi learnt of my escape to Ceylon he immediately despatched his son Abdul Hamid to Colombo with false charges against me. His intention is to get me back into his power and to continue to persecute me.

I would, therefore, beg of Your Excellency to send an honest officer to the Maldives to inquire into the state of things there, for there is much discontent just now amongst the people owing to the high-handed manner in which Ibrahim Didi is administering the Government. A strict inquiry into the state of the finances will disclose the fact that much, if not all, of the revenue is being appropriated by Ibrahim Didi and his adherents.

In conclusion, I may state that the present Sultan is utterly helpless, and has no voice in the management of affairs. As regards my own banishment, I hold a letter from the Sultan stating that he was sorry for what was done to me, and that he had no share in the business, also that he would do all he could for me even if it cost him his crown.

If Your Excellency desires the administration of the Maldives to be carried on with a due regard to its prosperity and the meting out of justice, it is very necessary that Ibrahim Didi should be removed from the Maldives, as was done on previous occasions, with the result that there was peace and harmony. I would therefore beg Your Excellency to hold an inquiry and restore me to my office, and to order that all my property be returned to me.

64, Kollupitiya.
Colombo, November 8, 1905.

HAJI HASSAN DIDI WILANA MANIKFAN.

No. 130

Memorandum to Hassan Didi.

In reply to his memorial of the 8th instant, Haji Hassan Didi Wilana Manikfan is hereby informed that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor has no intention whatever of sending any officer to inquire into the administration of the Maldives, or of interfering in its affairs in any way.

2. He is at liberty to remain quietly in Colombo for the present, or at any other part of Ceylon in which he chooses to reside.

Colonial Secretary's Office.
Colombo, November 16, 1905.

F. J. SMITH.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 131.

The Movements of Hassan Didi.

I.—Hassan Didi arrived from the Maldives on November 13 and is staying at No. 64, Kollupitiya, which he has rented for three months.

With him are his two sons, Ibrahim Didi and Mohammed Didi, and eleven other Maldivians, all of whom are in residence at No. 64, Kollupitiya.

Hassan Didi has stated that he has come here merely to see the Island, and that he intends going on to Calcutta.

He is friendly with Carimjee Jafferjee, Noorbhai, and the *ex*-Sultan. | YX

The house No. 64 has been rented in Hassan Didi's name from Singho Vedarala, and only his party are in residence there.

The movements of Hassan Didi are being carefully watched, and further report as to his intentions, associates, &c., will follow.

November 14, 1905.

H. L. DOWBIGGIN,
Superintendent of Police.

II.—It is stated that Hassan Didi escaped from the atoll in which he was imprisoned with the aid of his son Ibrahim Didi, who assaulted the sentry and enabled his father to make good his escape. Hassan Didi immediately engaged a fishing dhoney and set sail for Ceylon, accompanied by his two sons and eleven followers.

Carimjee Jafferjee engaged house No. 64, Kollupitiya, for the party, Hassan Didi paying the rent. | Y

The party arrived on November 13, and on November 14, at 4 P.M., the *ex*-Sultan visited the house, and was in Hassan Didi's company for a considerable time. It is stated that Hassan Didi had previously called on the *ex*-Sultan at the G. O. H. on November 13 at 8 P.M. | X

Hassan Didi never leaves the house by day, if he does venture out it is always after dark. He is reputed to have brought a considerable sum of money with him, which he has "banked" with Carimjee Jafferjee. He is by trade a merchant dealing in rice, &c., and it is expected that he will carry on the business for some time from Calcutta. His return to the Maldives is improbable. | Y

Hassan Didi previously visited Ceylon eighteen months ago, when he came for the benefit of his health. He is reputed to be a man of means. He is being carefully watched, his movements will be reported, and further inquiry made as to his intentions.

November 15, 1905.

H. L. DOWBIGGIN,
Superintendent of Police.

III.—Hassan Didi left No. 64, Kollupitiya, in a rickshaw yesterday at 7.30 P.M. He was followed to Carimjee Jafferjee's office at Fourth Cross street, Pettah. He was in Carimjee Jafferjee's company for 2½ hours, and left at 10.30 P.M., returning direct to No. 64, Kollupitiya. | Y

The names of the party now at No. 64, Kollupitiya, are (in addition to Hassan Didi and his two sons, Mohammed and Ibrahim Didi) Domanak, Ebrahim Didi, Don Takra, Don Adanu, Bhodu Ali, Kkahew Cassim, and Sakura Ohoya.

There were two others by name Hassim Fuker and Cassim Fuker, but Hassan Didi appears to have quarrelled with them, with regard to three rifles and four revolvers brought over by him, and driven them out of the house. These two men are now residing with Abdul Careem, who is said to be the Interpreter of the Maldivian Government resident in Ceylon.

The dhoney by which the party came is the "Fathul Salam Veelana" (Master, Usoof). This boat is still in harbour, ready to sail at any time.

The date of Hassan Didi's arrival was given as November 13 in error, the correct date is October 25.

It is probable that Hassan Didi will not stop in Ceylon so long as he originally intended, he may go on to Calcutta at any time.

November 16, 1905.

H. L. DOWBIGGIN,
Superintendent of Police.

X IV.—Hassan Didi left No. 64 yesterday at 12.30 P.M. and proceeded in rickshaw No. 3,979 to the G. O. H., where he remained till 3 P.M., and returned to Kollupitiya.

There appears to be considerable friction between Hassan Didi's party and the two Maldivians who were driven away, viz., Hassim Fuker and Cassim Fuker.

November 17, 1905.

H. L. DOWBIGGIN.
Superintendent of Police.

Y V.—On November 17 Mohammed Didi (son of Hassan Didi) went on board the dhoney "Fathe Nuvalan" at 8.30 A.M. and brought ashore some packages from the vessel. He then proceeded to Carimjee Jafferjee's, where he was met by his father, Hassan Didi. Both then returned to No. 64, Kollupitiya, at 3.30 P.M.

Y On November 19 Hassan Didi visited Carimjee Jafferjee at 4 P.M. in a private rickshaw sent to him for use by Carimjee Jafferjee. He returned to No. 64, Kollupitiya, at 6.30 P.M.

Cassim Fuker and Hassim Fuker are now with Abdul Hamid Didi at No. 47, Fourth Cross street, Pettah. Abdul Hamid Didi is said to be the Collector of Customs at the Maldives. It is stated that Cassim Fuker and Hassim Fuker were imprisoned on the island Haddo Matthi for theft. When Hassan Didi effected his escape he approached these two men and informed them that the present Sultan had pardoned all prisoners, and that he (Hassan Didi) had been deputed to take them back to the Maldives.

November 20, 1905.

H. L. DOWBIGGIN.
Superintendent of Police.

Y VI.—On November 20 Hassan Didi and Mohammed Didi visited Carimjee Jafferjee at 10.30 A.M.: they then proceeded to the Colombo Police Court, where Hassan Didi filed a plaint against Abdul Careem, the Maldivian Interpreter, whom he charged with criminal breach of trust in respect of 9,200 coconuts (P. C., Colombo, case No. 95,882). Leaving the court they returned to Carimjee Jafferjee's, went on to the Fort, and reached No. 64, Kollupitiya, at 5 P.M.

Y On November 21 Hassan Didi proceeded to Carimjee Jafferjee's office in a rickshaw, and was in his company from 2 P.M. to 9.30 P.M.

Y On November 22 Hassan Didi visited Carimjee Jafferjee at 8 A.M. From there he proceeded to the Police Court with Dadabhoy, Noor Mohammadu, and Habibu. He returned to Carimjee Jafferjee's
Y at 12.45 P.M., remaining till 2 P.M., when he returned to No. 64. Again at 8 P.M. he visited Carimjee Jafferjee, accompanied by his son Mohammed Didi, remaining with Carimjee Jafferjee till 11 P.M.

On November 23 Hassan Didi went to the Police Court at 9 A.M. in connection with his case. The case has been forwarded to the Attorney-General, and appears to be entirely false. In court Hassan Didi described himself as "Admiral of the Maldivian Fleet."

November 24, 1905.

H. L. DOWBIGGIN.
Superintendent of Police.

VII.—On November 24 Hassan Didi visited Carimjee Jafferjee at 4.30 P.M., returning at 10.30 P.M.

On November 25 Hassan Didi and Mohammed Didi visited the Hon. Mr. Abdul Rahiman at 8 A.M., leaving at 10 A.M. Hassan Didi, together with the *ex*-Sultan, Abdul Hamid Didi, Abdul Careem, Carimjee Jafferjee, attended on His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor at Temple Trees from 11 A.M. to 12.30 P.M. The *ex*-Sultan left for Suez the same night; Hassan Didi did not see him off.

On November 26 Hassan Didi did not leave the house.

On November 27 he visited Carimjee Jafferjee from 5 to 7.30 P.M.

November 28, 1905.

H. L. DOWBIGGIN.
Superintendent of Police.

No. 132.

E. A. Hamid Didi to E. B. Denham, Esq., Private Secretary to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

47, Fourth Cross street,
Colombo, November 25, 1905.

SIR,—You will remember that at the close of the interview granted to the Maldivians this noon* by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor at Temple Trees, Hassan Didi applied for permission to be allowed to go away to India, and that he was told that he was at liberty to do so.

Pray, will you kindly bring to the notice of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor the request of the Maldivian Government in the last letter† brought over by me that Hassan Didi may be arrested and sent back to the Maldives. He is not only a political prisoner in exile, but he is also a criminal, in that in his successful attempt to escape he has seriously, perhaps mortally, assaulted the headman of the island to which he was banished, and, further, in having brought over Government properties.

I have therefore to request you, on behalf of the Maldivian Government, to see that Hassan Didi is not allowed to leave Colombo for the present until the arrival of the Maldivian Ambassador.

E. A. HAMID DIDI.

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* See No. 127.

† See No. 128.

No. 133.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to E. A. Hamid Didi.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, December 1, 1905.

SIR,—With reference to your letter* of November 25 to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, inviting attention to the request of the Maldivian Government that Hassan Didi may be arrested and sent back to the Maldives, and stating that he is not only a political prisoner in exile, but also a criminal, in that in his successful attempt at escape he has assaulted the headman of the atoll, I am directed by the Lieutenant-Governor to inform you that the law of Ceylon does not permit His Excellency to take any measures to arrest Hassan Didi in the circumstances set out; but it may be the case that what has occurred will justify you in applying to a local court for process against Hassan Didi.

2. I am to add that if you wish you may see the Attorney-General on the subject.

F. J. SMITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 134.

Lieutenant-Governor Sir A. M. Ashmore, K.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, December 4, 1905.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 23rd Shanban, 1323, corresponding to October 23, 1905,† of the Christian era, reporting the escape of Hassan Didi from the atoll in which he was confined and an armed robbery by him and certain other Maldivian subjects.

2. In reply, I have to inform Your Highness that Hassan Didi and other Maldivians arrived in Ceylon on October 25 in a Maldivian dhoney, and that I have personally warned him not to interfere with the affairs of Government in the Maldives.

3. I am, however, not prepared to order a seizure of Hassan Didi's person or of any goods or articles he has brought with him.

A. M. ASHMORE.

No. 135.

E. A. Hamid Didi to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

47, Fourth Cross street,
Colombo, December 4, 1905.

SIR,—I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant on the subject of the Maldivian exile Hassan Didi, and referring me to the Hon. the Attorney-General for advice.

2. In order to do so I require a copy in English of the letter from His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives brought over by me. I request, therefore, you will be so good as to grant me a certified copy of the letter referred to.

E. A. HAMID DIDI.

No. 136.

The Hon. the Attorney-General to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

No. 782. Colombo, December 6, 1905.

SIR,—With reference to your letter dated the 1st instant, addressed to Abdul Hamid Didi Effendi, copy whereof was forwarded for my information, I have the honour to report that Abdul Hamid Didi Effendi, accompanied by his Advocate, Mr. Bawa, called upon me yesterday.

2. Mr. Bawa was unable to contend that any court in the Island had jurisdiction to issue process for the arrest of Hassan Didi for the offences which he was alleged to have committed in one of the Maldives.

ALFRED G. LASCELLES,
Attorney-General.

No. 137.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

Translation.

MAY His Excellency's position be exalted!

WE beg to inform Your Excellency that Hassan Didi and his companions who escaped from Maldives in last October reached Colombo, Ceylon, on the 27th of the same month in a Kundira boat, and we hope that Your Excellency will deal with them as we stated in our letter dated 23rd Shanban, corresponding to October 23 last.

We have instructed our Ambassador, Ameer Abdul Hamid Didi, to communicate to Your Excellency all the circumstances regarding Hassan Didi and his companions and to explain their modes, so that Your Excellency may know them well.

May you live long!

10th Savval, 1323.
(December 8, 1905.)

* See No. 132. † See No. 128.

No. 138.

Hassan Didi to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—YOUR Excellency's humble servant begs to lay the following grievances for Your Excellency's kind consideration.

I was one of the Ministers of the Sultan of the Maldives until recently, when I was banished to one of the atolls. The cause of my banishment is perhaps not known to Your Excellency, or it may be that some other reason than the true one has been given to Your Excellency. In the reasons that have been given for my banishment, I am sure the true reasons have never been made known. The Government must be aware of Ibrahim Didi's previous career; how from time to time he has caused unrest amongst the people; how his whole career has been marked by unscrupulousness and greed. During the previous Sultan's reign all attempts made by Ibrahim Didi to return to the Maldives were frustrated, as the Sultan would not permit him to return under any circumstances. Many an attempt was made to induce the Sultan to withdraw his objection and opposition to Ibrahim Didi's return, but every attempt failed, as the Sultan was keenly alive to the danger he ran if Ibrahim Didi returned to the Maldives. On the deposition of the Sultan Imad-ud-din, the present Sultan was placed on the throne. I will not touch on the events which led to this revolution, except to state that my son was the Ambassador selected by the new Sultan to report his accession to the throne. The change of Sultans removed from his path the Sultan who knew him so thoroughly and distrusted him so greatly that he would not have him in his dominions on any pretext whatever. The coming of a new Sultan to the throne gave Ibrahim Didi the opportunity for which he was longing. He returned to the Maldives in the decline of life. He has but a short time to live. What other plan of action could be expected of him under the circumstances? Would not a man of his character use every opportunity to enrich himself? Would he not to attain his object sweep away all obstructions in his path? Would he brook any opposition to any plans of his ostensibly for the benefit of his country, but really resulting in a profit to himself and his relatives? It is certain he would not, and any one who knew his character would perceive the truth of what I say.

2. The true cause of my banishment was that Ibrahim Didi thought that I would be in the way. The Sultan never of his own accord banished me, and to prove this I annex copy of the translation of the Sultan's letter to me. The Sultan, may Allah preserve him from all harm, is like as wax in Ibrahim Didi's hands, and if he had the will I am sure he would recall me at once. But I was not the only exile. There were others, and amongst them ministers and many prominent officials, in all 126. These men were found to be thorns in the path of Ibrahim Didi, and are now exiles on various atolls, in spite of the verbal instructions of Your Excellency to a previous Ambassador that people were not to be banished from Malé. Their places have been taken by the three sons and a brother of Ibrahim Didi, who has therefore a free hand in appropriating to any purposes he chooses the funds of the State. Has any portion of the State revenue of six to seven lacs of rupees a year been expended on public works? The fact that the tribute has been late in arriving is sufficiently clear proof that the administration of the island is bad, and that there is great dissatisfaction among the people. The easiest way for the Government of Ceylon to find out the true state of things is to send an honest and experienced officer to inquire independently of Ibrahim Didi and his relatives.

3. It is a matter of great regret to me that my complaints have received such little consideration.

4. I was not only banished to a barren atoll, but was forced to work for my daily food, just as if I were a menial. Was it just that an old man like me should at my time of life be compelled to live a rough life? Was this done with the sanction of the Sultan? Living in the atoll was so precarious that I had to flee to Your Excellency's dominions for protection. I was permitted to live quietly in Ceylon, but my persecutor did not cease to trouble me. My servants were induced to leave me. My nuts were removed by one of Ibrahim Didi's emissaries, Abdul Careem, and I had to sue him in court for the money due to me. I was next summoned before the Lieutenant-Governor, and in the presence of my enemies I was publicly charged with having been in league with the *ex*-Sultan to overthrow the present Sultan. No such thought was ever entertained by me. It is not to my interests that the present Sultan should be dethroned, as he has always been friendly to me—evidence of which is in the annexed copy of the letter from the Sultan—and in addition he is related to me, as he is married to my granddaughter.

5. Is it reasonable or just that the coincidence of the *ex*-Sultan and I arriving about the same time in Ceylon should be attributed to a plot for the deposition of the present Sultan? Furthermore, from my personal knowledge of the *ex*-Sultan, I do not think he will care to live in the Maldives, now that he is married to a European wife. At the interview with the Lieutenant-Governor I was subjected to the further humiliation of having to speak through an interpreter who was my enemy and the tool of Ibrahim Didi. The character of this interpreter, Abdul Careem, might be gathered from the annexed judgment (in D. C. case 21,104) of the District Judge, who found that Abdul Careem was guilty of cheating, forgery, and perjury. In place of Abdul Careem I asked to be allowed to speak through my interpreter, Hadji Habibu, a former Government interpreter, who had served with acceptance, till he was superseded by Abdul Careem, the tool and myrmidon of Ibrahim Didi, and whose father and forefathers had served the Maldivian and Ceylon Governments in the capacity of interpreter.

6. I beg of Your Excellency that instructions be issued to Abdul Hamid, the son of Ibrahim Didi, and the Maldivian Ambassador, to leave me and my servants severely alone; that inquiry be made by some independent, honest, and experienced Ceylon Civil Servant into the administration of the Maldives and the conduct of Ibrahim Didi. I also beg of Your Excellency to permit me or my son to go to the Maldives with the escort of an European police officer for protection against any violence which Ibrahim Didi and his myrmidons might use, and to see that my object in visiting the Maldives is an honest one. As I had to leave the Maldives as quickly as possible I brought with me very little of my money, and now I wish to have my goods and my family brought to Ceylon, where I shall live quietly, and this fact is also sufficient proof that I escaped to Ceylon to escape the cruel and harsh treatment of Ibrahim Didi.

Colombo, January 12, 1906.

HASSAN DIDI WILANA MANIKFAN.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 138.

Translation of a Letter of Muhammad Sams-ud-din, Sultan of the Maldives.

On the 29th Ramazan, 1322, after my best compliments to brother Wilana Manikfan. I will bring you to this country if I can do what I can. I am trying my best for the same, if they dethrone me even no harm upon that. I will try to bring you up. It is better for you to be patient and keeping mind towards God. You can send more letters; now, how is your boarding affairs? I also appreciate sending more letters. I know that it is very difficult to discharge. Please let me know plainly that you are working hard to earn your daily bread, or taking from Maldives. Please let me know every bit plainly. I am trying my best by the favour of God to your success. If it be so to place a man and whatever you require more I will discharge. I will help you as long as you are in sound health. Please write about your welfare plainly. I came to hear by a certain man you have been showing all the letters that I am sending you. I am glad if you burn the same after you read over; however, please send the reply of this letter. Your wife Sithi Dotha wanted to go to your place. My wife, that is, your granddaughter, is in sound health, as well as my three sons, but I have got the same pain in my leg as before, which prevents my walking. I have gone only to see the Ramazan feast, but not anywhere else. There are Phulgaree and Hazara in Hamwerhatti, and the other Hatti has nothing, either the Phulgaree or Hazara. Therefore, I am quite disgusted, and I am praying to God to place you here soon. I am trying my best by the favour of God to bring you here, but gradually I can do it.

MUHAMMAD SAMS-UD-DIN.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 138.

Translation of a letter of Muhammad Sams-ud-din, Sultan of the Maldives.

In the year of our Mohamed the Prophet, 7th of Hadj, 1322, to brother Wilana Manikfan, after my best compliments. I am praying always for brother Manikfan prosperity on every occasion. We will do our best for you as much as we can; do not consider it as false; even now we are trying much whatever aid or help God favours us: we hope God will accomplish this object, too. The Ministers of this authority are quite against you, but now under many occasions, by the word of the said Minister too, if you were there you can accomplish the same came to know by the words of all the inhabitants, but we did not say anything yet. I will reveal it when it comes to the point. I am always considering it in my mind, and whatever you require from us, please inform, we will do as much as we can. My mother, also my wife, that is your granddaughter, and my sister were telling me to give you their best compliments, so I wrote you the same. My sister and your granddaughter are pregnant, and it is come to proof that they are pregnant. My sister has been pregnant for the last five months, and my wife only four months going on. I came to hear that your daughter is to be confined: it commenced with pain. Whatever prosperity God has given you, it cannot be taken away. It seems to be quite well. We are ready to discharge our aid as much as we can. You can send a note to Ibrahim Didi, in case you think it right, and we are agreeable to what you prefer, but according to our ways it is better to send more notes to Ibrahim Didi.

MUHAMMAD SAMS-UD-DIN.

Enclosure No. 3 in No. 138.

Judgment in D. C., Colombo, Case No. 21,104.

J. L. Marikar Hadjiar, of Dam street, Colombo ..... Plaintiff.

Vs.

T. A. J. Noorbhai, of Keyzer street, Pettah, Colombo ..... Defendant.

I am not at all surprised that the defendant has been obliged to abandon his defence, as it is quite obvious that no delivery of the goods was made to the plaintiff or any agent of his, but the defendant was cheated by Abdul Careem and an unknown Moorman who represented himself as the plaintiff's agent.

The defendant bought the goods from them and gave them a cheque in favour of the plaintiff, which has been negotiated by Abdul Careem with the plaintiff's forged endorsement. To his offences of forgery and cheating Abdul Careem has added the further offence of deliberate perjury by denying his visits to the defendant during the last day or two to try and settle this action.

I think that Abdul Careem ought to be prosecuted for his offences, and direct the defendant to take the necessary steps.

Judgment will be entered for the plaintiff for Rs. 950 and costs.

November 6, 1905.

FELIX R. DIAS,
Additional District Judge.

Note.—In reply to this letter (of January 12, 1906) Hassan Didi was informed that the Governor saw no reason to interfere in the internal administration of the Government of His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives (Colonial Secretary's letter of March 7, 1906).

Apprehended Marauding Expedition in ss. "Jaffna" (December, 1906).

No. 139.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY Your Excellency prosper evermore!

WE are in receipt of certain important intelligence which we feel bound to communicate to Your Excellency with all possible despatch.

2. With the assistance of Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee, the Maldivian refugees in Ceylon, Hassan Didi and his two sons Mohammad Didi and Ibrahim Didi, have engaged the services of a company of Karachchi Pathans, who are now at Trichinopoly under the leadership of Jamadar Amir Khan. They have collected arms and engaged the steam launch "Jaffna." Their purpose is to start from Tuticorin, touch at Cochin, land at Malé under cover of night, force their way to the palace openly or in secret, and occupy it.

3. The said Hassan Didi had been twice to Tuticorin, and is now residing in Mr. Carimjee's house at Bambalapitiya. His two sons above-named, in company with an agent of Mr. Carimjee's, had been staying in India three months for the purpose.

4. We beg for assistance to put down the insurrection in contemplation; and we are thankful to heaven for having placed us under the protection of the British Government.

May Your Excellency enjoy a long and prosperous life.

Palace, Malé, 6th Savval, 1324.
(November 23, 1906.)

No. 140.

Telegram from the Governor of Ceylon to the Governor of Madras, dated December 8 (3.10 P.M.).

I HAVE received a letter from Sultan, Maldive Islands, informing me that Maldivian exiles contemplate filibustering expedition to Maldive Islands in steam boat "Jaffna" from Tuticorin. Request that steam boat named may be watched and any such filibustering expedition prevented. Letter follows.

No. 141.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, to the Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Confidential.—No. 26,464.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, December 11, 1906.

SIR,—I AM directed by His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of this Colony to forward to you the accompanying translation of a letter* received from His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives, intimating that he has received information that certain Maldivian exiles contemplate a filibustering expedition to the Maldive Islands in a steamboat named "Jaffna" from Tuticorin.

2. I am to state that this Government will feel much obliged if the Madras Government will be so good as to take steps to have the steamboat named watched, and to prevent any filibustering expedition which may be contemplated.

3. I enclose a copy of a telegram† which the Government of this Colony despatched to the Government of Madras on December 8 in regard to this matter.

F. J. SMITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 142.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G. to Vice-Admiral E. S. Poe.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, December 8, 1906.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to enclose for your information a translation of a letter* received from His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives. There are family quarrels of great bitterness among the family of the Sultan, whom we have acknowledged; but it will be important to prevent any armed descent from India upon the Maldive Islands.

I am telegraphing to the Government of Madras requesting that they shall take means to prevent the departure of any armed forces for that purpose. In the meantime, should Your Excellency have a small ship available, may I suggest that she should visit the Maldives and show our support of the *status in quo*.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE.

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* See No. 139.

† See No. 140.

No. 143.

Vice-Admiral E. S. Poe to Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G.

"Hermes," at Colombo, December 8, 1906.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 8th instant, enclosing a translation of a letter from His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives, and to state that I have no ship available to visit the Maldives nearer than Bombay, where "Proserpine" and "Perseus" are now refitting with urgency for service in the Persian Gulf, so that the only course I could adopt would be to go to the Maldives myself in the "Hermes"; but I am engaged to meet His Excellency the Viceroy at Calcutta on the 18th instant, and unless the matter is of very great urgency I should not feel justified in cancelling those arrangements.

2. As I see there are troops stationed at Trichinopoly, I should think that if the Government of Madras takes prompt steps it will be impossible for an armed force to leave any part of that coast.

EDMUND S. POE, Vice-Admiral,
Commander-in-Chief.

No. 144.

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras to the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon.

Confidential.

Fort George, December 19, 1906.

SIR,—IN reply to your letter Confidential No. 26,464, dated December 11, 1906, I am directed to inform you that inquiries have been made at Tuticorin with regard to the ss. "Jaffna," and the result shows that there is very little ground for suspicion with regard to the vessel.

2. The "Jaffna" is a vessel of only 44 tons register. She is used for conveying passengers between the shore and the shipping, and is not, properly speaking, a sea-going vessel. She is the property of the Swadeshi Company.

3. The Deputy Inspector-General of Police for Criminal Investigation reports that there is nothing suspicious about the vessel, that nothing is known in Tuticorin about any Maldive exiles, and that there is no sign of the preparation of any expedition.

4. The Police and the Port Officer have been warned to keep a watch on the launch.

5. There is no other ss. "Jaffna" known to the port authorities in this Presidency.

H. BRADLEY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

No. 145.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, December 22, 1906.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters bearing date the 6th Savval, 1324, and the 8th Savval, 1324, corresponding to November 23 and 25, 1906, of the Christian era, intimating that you had received information that some Maldivian exiles headed by Hassan Didi were contemplating a filibustering expedition to the Maldive Islands from Tuticorin.

2. In reply, I have to inform you that I have asked the Government of Madras to be good enough to take steps to have the steam boat "Jaffna" watched, and to prevent any such expedition setting out from any of the ports of that Presidency.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE.

No. 146.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The King's Pavilion,
Kandy, January 23, 1907.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—IN continuation of my letter of December 22 last, I have the honour to inform you that a reply has been received from the Government of Madras, intimating that from inquiries made at Tuticorin with regard to the ss. "Jaffna" there is very little ground for suspicion that the vessel is being fitted up for a filibustering expedition.

2. The "Jaffna" is a vessel of only 44 tons register, belonging to the Swadeshi Company. She is used for conveying passengers between the shore and the shipping, and is not, properly speaking, a sea-going vessel.

3. The police authorities of Madras state that there is nothing suspicious about the "Jaffna," that nothing is known in Tuticorin about any Maldive exiles, and that there is no sign of the preparation of any expedition.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE.

Note.—See also No. 310 (Visit of H. M. S. "Perseus").

Alleged ill-treatment of Maldivian Exiles.

No. 147.

Petition of Ali Didi to His Excellency the Governor.

MOST HUMBLY SHOWETH,—THAT Your Excellency's petitioner was Treasurer to the late banished Sultan of the Maldive Islands, and since the present Sultan was appointed for about one and half year he remained at his residence unmolested with his family.

That after such time elapsed the Prime Minister of the present Sultan, Ibrahim Didi, came with his followers one night and entered his house, arrested him, his brother, and his son, and despatched them in a small canoe to a near island known as Hurra, where the petitioner, his brother, and his son had to remain for about two years and four months.

That during their stay at Hurra the petitioner used to send people from there to the Maldives and get all their provisions, thereby encountering no great difficulties at the earlier part; but latterly Ibrahim Didi gave orders that no people from Hurra could go into the Maldives and fetch provisions, and hence the petitioner, his brother, and son had to undergo great hardships and privations for some time.

That the petitioner on two occasions appealed to the present Sultan for relief, and received only one reply expressing his wish to relieve him, his brother, and his son, but desired him to seek for mercy at the hands of his Prime Minister, Ibrahim Didi.

That the petitioner presented four petitions to the said Ibrahim Didi from time to time, but up to date received no reply, and in the meantime his troubles and miseries increasing daily in this lonely isle of Hurra, and fearing that Ibrahim Didi may indulge in other methods to cause them harm, placed themselves to the mercy of God alone, standing the risk of life or death.

That the petitioner, his brother, and his son, with three others, got into a small canoe and sailed to Colombo about twelve days ago, experiencing the most dangerous weather, and with all the difficulties managed to reach Colombo on Friday last, the 17th instant, and now appeal to Your Excellency for protection so long as they remain in Colombo.

That the petitioner is now informed that his brother Ahamado Didi Hakura Malikfan and his son, who were despatched to Mamajeeli, also by the said Ibrahim Didi, were sent for a couple of days ago: they were brought as if under escort, and in the presence of Ibrahim Didi they were tied both hands and feet and most unmercifully lashed; and to give them further pain chilli and salt were ground and applied to the wounds, and then they were exposed to the unbearable heat of a blazing fire.

That such being the cruelty at present exhibited by the said Ibrahim Didi, the petitioner begs of Your Excellency to order that the petitioner's brother, the aforesaid Ahamado Didi Hakura Manikfan, and his son, be brought to Colombo and stationed here.

The Sultan's reply is in the hands of the petitioner, and the other statements as regards his brother's ill-treatment, &c., are facts that can yet be proved.

In conclusion, the petitioner prays (1) for protection under the British flag at the hands of Your Excellency; and (2) for the order to bring the petitioner's brother and his son to Colombo.

For which act of great mercy and kindness the petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

7 v, Silversmith street.
Colombo, May 25, 1907.

H. ALI DIDI.

No. 148.

Office Note of June 6, 1907.

On June 4, 1907, Abdulla Didi, Commander of the Maldivian Army, personally explained to the Colonial Secretary the circumstances which led to the banishment of the three brothers Didis (Ahmed, Abdulla, and Ali), owing to a conspiracy to upset the Sultan's Government.

He further stated that he was not aware of the ill-treatment complained of in the petition, but on his return to Malé in three or four days would personally inform the Sultan and his Ministers of the allegations made by Ali Didi.

He also said that he had reason to believe that Abdulla Didi was now in Colombo with Ali Didi: that he was in concealment; and that certain Bombay merchants had persuaded him to come down here in the hope of being able, through him, to cause trouble to the existing Government of the Maldives.—R. C. K.

No. 149.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to H. Ali Didi.

No. 1,144.

Colonial Secretary's Office.
Colombo, June 5, 1907.

His Excellency the Governor, having taken into consideration the petition of H. Ali Didi, 7 v, Silversmith street, Colombo, of May 25, 1907, has directed that the petitioner be informed that His Excellency is not prepared to take action in the matter of the alleged ill-treatment of his brother, unless he is able to produce some reliable evidence of its truth. So far there are only the vaguest rumours to go upon, and on these it is quite impossible for the Government to act.

H. A. BURDEN.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 150.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to Commodore Sir George Warrender, Bart., R.N., C.B., M.V.O.

The Queen's Cottage,
Nuwara Eliya, June 11, 1907.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to enclose, for Your Excellency's information, copy of a petition* received from H. Ali Didi of the Maldive Islands, together with the minutes† of the Colonial Secretary.

2. H. Ali Didi asserts that his brother and his nephew have been flogged in a barbarous manner. I think it probable that the statements of Abdulla Didi made to the Colonial Secretary are not without foundation, as the Maldive Islands are in a state of chronic intrigue between two branches of the Didi family: but it is desirable that the Sultan, who is usually in the hands of the Didi actually in power, should feel that acts of undue severity are contemplated with great disfavour by His Majesty's Government.

3. I have the honour to request, therefore, that you will, if possible, direct that the Maldive Islands be visited by one of His Majesty's ships, and that permission may be secured that the two men mentioned as having been cruelly treated shall leave the Maldives if they so desire. I have no doubt that the good offices of the officer in command of His Majesty's ship that visits Malé can readily secure this. But it will be desirable to obtain from the officer in command a report upon the general situation so far as he can obtain information.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE.

No. 151.

Commodore Sir George Warrender, Bart., R.N., C.B., M.V.O., to Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G.

"Hyacinth," at Colombo,
June 12, 1907.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 11th instant on the subject of affairs in the Maldives, and to inform you that I shall be able to send a definite reply in the course of a few days.

G. WARRENDER, Commodore,
Commander-in-Chief.

No. 152.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives,
to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY Your Excellency prosper evermore!

WE beg to bring to Your Excellency's notice the following:

Though Muhammad Imad-ud-din, the deposed Sultan, is now living in the far off Suez, he has not ceased to instigate disturbances in the Maldives. He tries to cause disturbances as much as he can through his brothers, brothers-in-law, and his partisans, who formerly caused great loss and trouble to our islands. At his instigation houses have been set fire to. False rumours are spread in secret to the effect that the Ceylon Government has decided to bring back Imad-ud-din and restore him to the Sultanate; and by such rumours the minds of our subjects are troubled.

In the latter part of April last a conspiracy was discovered, and those concerned in it were banished to some of the islands, according to Maldivian custom. Abdulla Didi, an officer of our Government and elder brother of the sister of Imad-ud-din, the *ex*-Sultan, was found to have been one of the conspirators, and was then banished to the isle of Hurra, whereto his brother had been already banished. From Hurra the said Abdulla Didi, his brother Ali Didi, and son, and three others of the island, have made their escape under cover of night in a small boat. Until we heard of their arrival in Ceylon we were not aware of their whereabouts. We have no doubt that the refugees will make false complaints to Your Excellency against us.

We beg that Your Excellency will be pleased to have their movements watched over there. We do not see any means of putting down such disturbances except with the help of the Ceylon Government. We regret that these exiles entertain an idea that once they are in Ceylon they are safe from any penalty imposed by our Government. This idea of theirs tends to encourage them and sustain their spirit of disturbance.

May Your Excellency live long.

Malé, 22nd Rabiuttani, 1325.
(June 4, 1907.)

No. 153.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar,
Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, June 24, 1907.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 22nd Rabiuttani, 1325, corresponding to June 4, 1907, of the Christian era, regarding certain disturbances caused in Your Highness' dominions, apparently at the instigation of the late Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din Iskandar.

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* See No. 147.

† See Office Note (No. 148).

2. In reply, I have to inform you that I have received a petition from one Ali Didi,* one of your subjects who is at present in Colombo, complaining that his brother, his son, and he were arrested one night by Ibrahim Didi and his followers and banished to the island of Hurra: that after enduring privations there for some time they sailed to Colombo, where they now are. The petitioner also alleged that he has since received information that another brother, Ahmedo Didi Hakura Malikfan, and his son, who were banished to Mamajeeli, also at the instance of Ibrahim Didi, were brought back to Malé, where their hands and feet were tied and they were lashed, subsequently chilli and salt were ground and applied to their wounds, and they were then exposed to the heat of a blazing fire.

3. I trust that the allegation of the flogging of Ahmedo Didi Hakura Malikfan and his son is not true, and, under any circumstances, as there is reason to believe that they are not friendly disposed, and that they are not loyal to the Government, I would suggest that they may be permitted to leave your Highness' dominions should they desire to come to Ceylon.

4. I need hardly assure Your Highness that the Ceylon Government is always desirous to prevent any disturbance of the existing arrangements in the Maldive Islands, and that it will be glad to assist as far as lies in its power and as far as is possible in maintaining the existing rule.

I have, &c.,

HENRY A. BLAKE.

No. 154.

Commodore Sir George Warrender, Bart., R.N., C.B., M.V.O., to Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G.

Confidential.—No. 2,015.

"Hyacinth," at Colombo.
June 29, 1907.

SIR,—WITH reference to Your Excellency's letter of 11th instant, requesting that the Maldive Islands might be visited by one of His Majesty's ships, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that H. M. S. "Highflyer" left Colombo on the 19th idem to visit these islands. The duplicate of the report of Captain C. S. Hickley is forwarded herewith.

G. WARRENDER, Commodore.
Commander-in-Chief.

Enclosure in No. 154.

Captain C. S. Hickley to the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station.

H. M. S. "Highflyer," at Colombo.
June 25, 1907.

SIR,—IN accordance with your orders, I have the honour to report that on my arrival at Malé on Friday last, the Prime Minister Ibrahim Didi, the Private Secretary to His Highness the Sultan (son of the Prime Minister), the Collector of Customs (also son of the Prime Minister), the Second Treasurer to the Government, and Commander of the Volunteer Forces came on board to see me. I forthwith arranged with them to come on board at 9 A.M. to attend at the investigation concerning the petition of H. Ali Didi (now in Ceylon).

2. The Paymaster of the ship, Mr. Mainprice, assisted me in the investigation and took down the evidence in writing, which evidence I enclose.

3. Abdulla Didi (the Second Treasurer) was the first witness called. He was able to talk English fairly well, and gave his evidence without the assistance of an interpreter, and I consider his evidence reliable.

4. The evidence of the Prime Minister and that of the Private Secretary to His Highness (who acted as interpreter to his father) was taken together, and I am of opinion that their evidence was also reliable. On no single occasion during my investigation did they appear to attempt to conceal any evidence which I wished to obtain from them; in fact, although the witnesses were evidently biased in favour of the Government, of which they were members, I believe their statements to be true. The Private Secretary, or Collector of Customs, both sons of the Prime Minister, were the only persons, as far as I know, who were competent to act as an interpreter.

5. On the afternoon of the day of my arrival I called on His Highness the Sultan, and was cordially received. I explained to His Highness the reason of my visit to his possessions, and obtained from him permission to interview Ahmed Didi (at present in custody at Malé), which I did immediately afterwards.

6. I inquired of His Highness whether, in the event of Ahmed Didi or his son (at present in exile at Toddu island) wishing to leave the Maldives, he had any objection to them coming to Ceylon in the "Highflyer." His Highness' answer (given through the interpreter) was "Yes," and that His Highness particularly objected to any prisoners who were in custody in Malé or elsewhere in his possessions, by order of His Highness in Council, being taken away. His Highness, although a weak man, and apparently completely in the hands of his Prime Minister and Council, appeared to be firm, and none the less polite, on that point. His Highness denied having received any petitions from Ali Didi, and that he had written to Ali.

7. As regards the different statements made by the petitioner, the following evidence was deduced:—

(1) That Ali Didi was transported to Hurra island about two years ago by order of His Highness in Council for setting fire to houses in Malé and being concerned in political trouble. The witness explained that no man can be transported or punished for any serious offence except by order of His Highness in Council; that Ibrahim Didi did not go with his followers to Ali Didi's house and arrest him, his brother, or his son.

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* See No. 147.

(2) As regards petitioner's statement that he had to send for provisions to the Maldives and that Ibrahim Didi, the Prime Minister, gave orders to stop all people going from Hurra elsewhere. The witnesses absolutely denied this, and that even His Highness had not the power to stop boats plying between the islands, which they always do. The witness stated that if communication between Hurra and Malé was stopped, the inhabitants of Hurra would starve, as they obtain their supplies (other than fish) from Malé.

(3) His Highness denied that he had received any petitions from Ali Didi, and also stated that he had not written to Ali. (All petitions are seen by His Highness in Council.)

(4) That no petitions had been received by Ibrahim Didi from Ali Didi; that if any petitions had been received, they would have been dealt with by His Highness in Council, which was always done. Witnesses particularly dwelt upon the fact that His Highness in Council decided all matters of importance, in which decisions I doubt His Highness having much to say.

(5) There is no evidence to prove that Ahmed Didi was sent to Mamajeeli by order of the Prime Minister. No transportations are carried out except by order of His Highness in Council, as stated in paragraph (1).

Ahmed Didi, his wife, and son were brought to Malé from Mamajeeli (where Ahmed had been in exile for four years) on the same day that news had been received that Ali Didi had fled from Hurra, a letter having been found from Ahmed to Ali Didi containing plans for leaving for Ceylon. Ahmed and his son were taken from the boat (Ahmed's wife being allowed to go to her home) on arrival at Malé about one and a half month ago. Ahmed was secured by a rope round his waist and taken to the "Kutcherry," when the rope was removed and both his legs were put in the stocks. A guard was placed over him. His son was not secured in any way.

Shortly after the prisoner's arrival at the "Kutcherry" he alone was taken before the Council, secured by a rope round his waist. Ahmed at first did not admit having been concerned in any political intrigues or having written any letters against the Government, and refused to make any statements to the Council.

His hands were then tied behind his back, and several witnesses, including his brother Mahomed, having given evidence against him, his legs were again placed in the stocks.

After some fifteen minutes in this condition the prisoner volunteered (under the above pressure) to disclose all he knew, but I believe he did not disclose all that was required at once, and that he was several times replaced in the stocks with his hands tied behind his back until he had satisfied the Council with his statements.

The prisoner himself told me that he was six hours under the above pressure, and the Prime Minister and Private Secretary, who were present at the time, did not deny that.

Many documents and letters were produced containing statements by various witnesses (including one at least from Mahomed, his brother, against the prisoner, also letters from and to the prisoner, &c., of an incriminating nature (list enclosed), all of which are in the Maldivian language, and in the possession of the Government, and available if required.

If the translation of these documents, &c., as given verbally to me was correct (which I have no reason to doubt), and provided they are authentic, it appears that the *ex*-Sultan (now at Suez), the *ex*-Sultan's brother (now in Malé), Ahmed Didi (the prisoner), Ali Didi, Abdulla Didi (both in Ceylon), Mahomed Didi (at Toddu island), &c., were or are one and all concerned in creating political and other troubles in the islands.

8. The Prime Minister and Private Secretary, when questioned as to the tying of prisoner's hands, explained without the slightest hesitation or attempt at concealment that it was an excellent method for extracting information out of witnesses or prisoners, and there is no doubt that it is a recognized practice, and furthermore, one quite acceptable to these ignorant folk.

9. As already stated, I personally interviewed the prisoner Ahmed Didi (evidence enclosed). He was brought before me in a very emaciated condition with a rope round his waist. He could talk a little English, but did not appear in the least anxious to give me any information from his point of view. He stated that neither he nor his son had been flogged, but that his hands were tied behind his back for six hours. He denied having written letters inciting others to depose the Government.

10. I personally saw on his wrists the marks, now healed, which remained, which he and the interpreter said were made by the rope, with which statement the Prime Minister agreed. During my investigation the prisoner fainted, and the Members of Council present conveyed to me through the interpreter that he was feigning illness, was very clever (both of which statements I very much doubt), and was the leader of the brothers Didi.

11. When His Highness returned my visit on board this ship, which he did on Saturday afternoon, accompanied by his two brothers (who appeared to me to be far more intelligent individuals than His Highness), and about fifty or sixty others. His Highness repeated through his interpreter that he did not wish to allow any prisoners to be taken from his possessions.

12. I informed His Highness that the practice of securing people's hands behind their backs as a means of extracting evidence was not practised by His Majesty's Government, and that acts of undue severity are contemplated with great disfavour by them.

13. It appears from the evidence of the Second Treasurer, the Prime Minister, the Private Secretary, and Collector of Customs that the Bombay merchant Carimjee Jafferjee, who since the present Government took office has lost the monopoly of trade free from duty with the islands, is and has been largely concerned in doing all in his power to set the people against the present Government and to create trouble generally.

14. In conclusion, I am of opinion that the Sultan is entirely under the thumb of the leading members of his Council, viz., the Prime Minister, his Private Secretary, and the Collector of Customs (the two latter speaking English fluently, and were educated in Ceylon), and I should imagine that if all the documentary evidence is authentic, there may be further trouble coming, and that the Sultan is in the middle of a hornet's nest, surrounded by so many Didis both in the Government and out of it.

C. S. HICKLEY,
Captain.

Evidence of Ali Didi Abdulla Didi. Second Treasurer and Commander of Volunteers.

States that H. Ahmed Didi is now at Malé in prison awaiting sentence. That witness's cousin, H. Ali Didi, was sent to Hurra island by order of the Sultan in Council about two years ago. That H. Abdulla Didi (Ali's brother) had been sent to Hurra island by order of the Sultan in Council less than three months ago. Witness himself was away in Colombo at the time. That H. Ali Didi's son was not exiled to Hurra, but visited it of his own accord. This son is only a youth.

Witness states that there are the same eatables to be obtained on Hurra as there are at Malé, boats continually visiting Malé from Hurra. Boats have never been stopped plying between Malé and Hurra.

States that H. Ali Didi never to his knowledge presented petitions to the Sultan: it would have come through his hands in his official position as one of the three Treasurers. All petitions to His Highness go through the Treasurers. The witness explained that private letters may have reached the Sultan, but not official petitions.

Witness states that H. Ali Didi was sent to Hurra about two years ago alone for bribing other natives to set fire to houses in Malé to make trouble in the island. These incendiaries were transported to other islands at the same time that H. Ali Didi was sent to Hurra.

H. Ahmed Didi (Ali's brother) was brought here a short while ago by order of the Sultan in Council.

When witness returned from Colombo he went to see H. Ahmed Didi, who was in custody, but the latter made no complaint to him.

Ahmed was in prison by order of the Sultan in Council for having written letters to his brother Abdulla (in Malé) urging him to make trouble and burn houses. These letters inciting Abdulla were found, and one of the incendiaries was caught setting fire to a house, and he gave evidence that Ahmed and Abdulla were the instigators.

Witness states that Ahmed, Ali, and Abdulla Didi, brothers, were endeavouring to upset the Sultan's Government, and that a Bombay merchant had given Ali money to help him in his intrigues against the Maldive Government. This merchant's name is Carimjee Jafferjee.

Carimjee Jafferjee told witness at Colombo a few days ago (about June 5, 1907) that "he would show his money's power against the Maldive Government." This merchant also went so far as to say that he has spent Rs. 7,000 to prevent the "Proserpine's" men being sent to Camp at Diyatalawa and for the ship to be sent to the Maldives to support H. Ali Didi's side. (This statement by the merchant was made in Hindustani.)

Witness states that H. Ahmed Didi is in prison now at Malé, having been brought from Mamajeeli a short while ago for trial for writing the letters afore-mentioned; his case has not yet been settled. Witness has no knowledge of Ahmed or his son being flogged. Ahmed's son has been sent to Toddu island for being concerned in carrying out the orders of his father and uncles to upset Government, burn property, &c.

Evidence of Ibrahim Didi, Prime Minister.

Is brother-in-law to H. Ali Didi. States H. Ali Didi was transported to Hurra about two years ago by order of the Sultan in Council for setting fire to houses in Malé and being concerned in political trouble. His brother and son were not transported at that time to Hurra. The natives of Hurra island obtain supplies from Malé when they want them (rice, sugar, biscuit, &c.). They catch fish and dry it, and exchange that and coconuts for the things required in Malé.

Witness states that communication between Malé and Hurra was never stopped by his order or any one else's. Further, that His Highness has not the power to stop communication between the islands. If communication were stopped the inhabitants of Hurra would starve.

States that H. Ali Didi did not to his knowledge send any petitions from Hurra to the Sultan, but His Highness may have received a private letter. Any petitions to His Highness are always seen by His Highness in Council. States that he did not himself receive any petitions from H. Ali Didi after he was exiled.

States H. Ahmed Didi is now in custody at Malé. He was arrested at Mamajeeli by order of the Government and brought to Malé on the day that news came that H. Ali Didi had fled from Hurra, because the Government were afraid that Ali would go to Mamajeeli and take Ahmed with him, a letter having been found from Ahmed to Ali Didi containing plans for leaving for Ceylon. This letter is in possession of the Government now. Ahmed was at this time at Mamajeeli, about one and a half month ago. H. Ahmed Didi was sent to Mamajeeli about four years ago by the present Government, and has not been in Malé since until recently brought here with his son.

Witness states when H. Ahmed Didi and his son arrived here from Mamajeeli about one and a half month ago they were kept in confinement. The boat arrived with Ahmed, his son, and his wife, about 10 A.M. Ahmed and his son were taken to the "Kutcherry." Ahmed was secured with a rope round his waist. On arrival at the "Kutcherry" the rope was taken from his waist and he was put with his feet in the stocks. His son was kept near him, but not tied in any way. There was a guard placed on him inside the prison, and also a guard outside. His wife was sent to her home (in Malé). The same day Ahmed was taken before the Ministers in Council. He was secured with a rope round his waist at that time. His son was not brought before the Council, being only a youth (nineteen years old). Ahmed at first did not admit that he was concerned in political intrigues, and denied having sent any letters. His hands were then tied behind his back, several witnesses having given evidence against him. Ahmed was not beaten, but after he had been tied by the hands for some 15 minutes he volunteered to say all he knew; his hands were then untied, and he disclosed everything with which he was connected. The Government possesses written statements of Ahmed's confession to being concerned in causing trouble with a view to upsetting the Government, in which Ali and Abdulla (now in Ceylon) are concerned, and also H. Mahomed Didi, the youngest brother, who is now transported to Mamajeeli.

Witness and the interpreter (His Highness' Private Secretary) here explained that it was a common practice in the Maldives that when a prisoner under examination before the Council refused to divulge the facts of the case his hands were tied behind his back, and that after a short time he generally told all he knew.

Mahomed Didi (Ahmed's youngest brother) was the principal witness against Ahmed when the latter was brought before the Council.

Note.—Written statements in the Maldivian language made by Mahomed Didi before the Council were here produced and the salient points translated:—

Mahomed admitted that he went from his eldest brother, Abdulla (then at Malé and a member of the Government), with letters to his other brothers in Hurra and Mamajeeli, and also that he conveyed instructions from Ahmed at Mamajeeli to collect people to overthrow the Government. He admits he was arranging plans to force an entry into the palace at night, when the inmates were unarmed, and seize the place.

All the plans for the overthrow of the Government were frustrated by the arrest and transportation of Abdulla and Mahomed Didi.

The Prime Minister stated that he considered it a very serious offence for a prisoner to escape from exile. It was suggested to the Prime Minister that the Government were responsible for the safe custody of a prisoner.

Witness states that Abdulla Didi was formerly in the present Government until transported to Hurra about three months ago. His brother Mahomed was at Malé until then, and Ali Didi at Hurra in exile. Abdulla, though ostensibly serving the Government, was in reality making use of his brother Mahomed to communicate with Ali at Hurra and Ahmed at Mamajeeli to make plans to upset the Government, of which he, Abdulla, was a minister.

Abdulla was after this arrested, several witnesses having given evidence against him to the above effect. He was tried before the Council, and witness states the case was proved against him of being concerned with others in making plans to overthrow the Government. He was sentenced to be transported to Hurra island, where his brother Ali was already. Abdulla had admitted the truth of the charges against him.

A large amount of documentary evidence from witnesses' statements before the Council was here produced and a number of orginal letters:—

One letter from the *ex*-Sultan (now in Suez) to his brother in Malé of a seditious nature.
Two letters from the *ex*-Sultan's brother to Ahmed Didi. (Two brothers of the *ex*-Sultan are now in Malé.)
One letter from Ali to Ahmed Didi containing intrigues.
One letter from Abdulla to Ahmed Didi (written whilst Abdulla was a member of the present Government) saying what steps he had taken to collect people to join their party.
One letter from the *ex*-Sultan's mother to Ahmed Didi urging him to take any steps possible to overthrow the Government.
One letter from Ahmed to Abdulla Didi telling him that as he, the writer, and Ali are in exile, he, Abdulla, was the one to use his influence to collect people to assist their side.
One from Ahmed Didi to the *ex*-Sultan's brother asking him to help and collect people through Abdulla (the then Minister) for the same object.
One letter from the wife of the *ex*-Sultan, in Malé, to Mahomed Didi, her brother. (The wife of the *ex*-Sultan is the sister of these brothers Didi.)
One letter from Ahmed to Ali Didi, which was found in the boat that brought the letter, making plans for escape from the Maldives to Ceylon.

All these letters and documents, which are in the Maldivian language, are at the disposal of the Government of Ceylon if required.

The Sultan's Council consists of over twenty members in all: the principal ones are six in number. The Prime Minister has three sons on the Council. No transportations or serious sentences are awarded without the decision of the Sultan in full Council. The Prime Minister himself has been a member of the Government for forty-five years under various Sultans.

In reply to question, what was the object of Carimjee Jafferjee or any other Bombay merchants in interfering against the Maldive Government, witness stated:—

In the time of the late Sultan, Carimjee had a monopoly of trade free from duty, others paying duty. Under the present Government all merchants pay equal duty, and no monopolies are allowed.

It is believed by the Prime Minister, the Private Secretary to His Highness, and the Collector of Customs that this Carimjee Jafferjee, now without the former monopoly, has done all in his power for the last four years to stir up trouble and set the people against the present Sultan and his Government. They have evidence of a certain messenger being sent to Malé from Ceylon by Carimjee Jafferjee to Hassan Didi, now dead, telling him to come to Ceylon, where he would assist his party to get back to power.

Evidence of H. Ahmed Didi (Prisoner).

Who sent you to Mamajeeli? This Government.

How long ago? Four years and three months.

When were you brought back here? Nearly five weeks ago.

When you arrived in the boat, how were you taken to the "Kutcherry?" With a rope round my waist, as now.

Who was with you? My son and wife and infant.

Were you seen by His Highness' Council? Yes, the same day.

Was your son seen by the Council as well? Yes.

What was done with you? I was put with my legs in stocks.

How long did you stay like that? Until now.

When you saw the Council what did you tell them? I told them I could not get anything to eat there, so I wanted to go to Ceylon.

How long were your hands tied behind you? Tied about 10 A.M. and released about 4 P.M.

Were you beaten? No, only hands tied, which was very painful.

Where is your son? Sent to his grandfather and grandmother at Toddu.

Why do you want to go to Ceylon? To go and obtain some business.

Were you happy at Mamajeeli? Yes.

Why did you not keep quiet at Mamajeeli, but attempt to upset the Government? I did not attempt to upset the Government or create trouble.

How is it that the Government have several letters from you to your sister and brother making trouble: did you write letters to your sister? Yes. Making trouble? No.

To your brother? Yes. Making trouble? No.

Witness here collapsed and was sick. The Prime Minister and Council stated that he "was very clever, and the leader of the brothers"—that he was feigning illness.

On returning: Is there any one in Malé whom you would like to be called as a witness on your behalf? No.

If you did not write letters inciting to make trouble, you ought to have witnesses on your side? No, none.

Witness again denied having written letters inciting to stir up trouble, and discredit the Government. He stated that he had written many letters, but none to cause trouble.

No. 155.

Petition of Ali Didi, of 75, Silversmith street, in Colombo, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

Colombo, June 27, 1907.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH,—THAT the petitioner is very thankful for Your Excellency's reply No. 1,144 of 5th instant.* and in further proof begs to state as follows:—

That the leading proof which the petitioner could submit before Your Excellency as true evidence with regard to the ill-treatment of the petitioner's brother Hakura Manikfan and his son are the cuts and marks which may be yet visible on his body, being the effects of the severe punishment involved on him.

That the petitioner is also able to produce witnesses who have seen what had taken place, but although they are British subjects residing here they have places of business in the Maldives, and hence they are backward to do so, fearing that Ibrahim Didi will take his revenge when they go to the Maldives and punish them and drive them away.

Wherefore the petitioner begs and prays that Your Excellency may interfere in this matter and cause Hakura Manikfan and his son to be produced before Your Excellency for examination, and if what the petitioner says proves to be a falsehood, the petitioner, along with his brother and son, who are here at present, is prepared to undergo any penalty at Your Excellency's hands.

That the petitioner further begs to inform Your Excellency that Hakura Manikfan is yet kept in the Maldives under strict punishment, his feet blocked up in wood without moving, and his hands drawn behind and tied round his waist, so that if he be kept in that state for some time longer, he is sure to die in great agony; but his son was severely punished and cast into an isle called Sodu.

In conclusion, the petitioner craves for mercy at Your Excellency's feet, and prays that justice may be done.

For which act of great mercy and kindness the petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

H. ALI DIDI.

No. 156.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to Ali Didi.

No. 1,400.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, July 6, 1907.

HIS Excellency the Governor, having taken into consideration the petition of Ali Didi, of 75, Silversmith street, Colombo, dated June 27, 1907, on behalf of his brother Ahmed Didi Hakura Manikfan of Malé, has directed that the petitioner be informed that inquiries have been made, which show that the reports made by him as to the flogging of his brother and the rubbing of ground chilli and salt into the wounds are without foundation.

F. J. SMITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 157.

Petition of Ali Didi of Malé, at present in 85, Hulftsdorp street, Colombo, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH.—THAT Your Excellency's petitioner is in due receipt of Your Excellency's letter No. 1,400 dated 6th instant, and notes that inquiries have been made regarding the flogging of his brother Ahmed Didi Hakura Manikfan and the rubbing of ground chilli and salt into his wounds were found to be without foundation.

That Your Excellency's petitioner again begs to submit certain facts which may induce Your Excellency to believe the statements made in the previous petitions, although the petitioner was not an eyewitness himself.

That the petitioner's brother Hakura Manikfan, Your Excellency may have heard, was Minister to the late Sultan of the Maldives, and he has on several occasions visited Colombo, bringing the tribute to the English Government as Ambassador. He is a royal descendant, and in the absence of the late Sultan from Maldives he was in Colombo, and did not know what changes had taken place at Malé: but when he returned to Malé he was at once arrested on board, and in spite of his begging and praying to be excused, he was at once despatched from thence to a lonely isle, and all he possessed at Malé was taken by Ibrahim Didi's son and his men, such as his house, boats, and everything else.

After a short time the petitioner was also sent in a boat to another isle, and at the same time they took possession of all the houses, goods, &c., that he had; and his elder brother, Abdulla Didi, was the only person from the family who was left at Malé, and who had supplied food, &c., to all the rest, and whilst so living unfortunately Abdulla Didi was also taken prisoner along with a great number of others. The petitioner's brother Abdulla Didi was an eyewitness to the various kinds of punishments inflicted on the different people, whilst his two hands were tied and his legs blocked in a log with a rope round the waist, and at the same time overheard Ibrahim Didi, his son, and his brother proposing that all the people who were exiled about three or four years ago should be brought back to Malé and most unmercifully punished; and keeping Abdulla Didi in this position for a few days, he was also exiled to the same isle where the petitioner was stationed. Abdulla Didi having met his brother Ali Didi, the petitioner then related all that had taken place at Malé. Some were flogged most unmercifully all along the road, and afterwards ground chilli and salt were applied to the wounds saying it was medicine. Some were hung up by the legs and heads downwards, thrashed with a stick, and the feet burnt with a hot iron, &c. Out of so many who were punished, Kuda Didi was one who died on his way, taken in a boat to a far isle,

* See No. 149.

from the wounds. Traders from this isle who go to Malé on business informed the petitioner that Ibrahim Didi had written letters ordering those who were sent on exile three or four years ago should be brought back to Malé and given the same punishment, and that very likely Hakura Manikfan and the petitioner may also be taken, preferred to risk his life and come under your protection than be exposed to such cruelty at the hands of Ibrahim Didi.

Wherefore the petitioner begs to submit the statements contained herein are nothing but patent facts, to which the petitioner's brother is an eyewitness, and that Your Excellency may order that Hakura Manikfan, his son, together with his belongings, may be brought to Colombo; and secondly, to inform Your Excellency that his stepmother with two small children have also been banished to some isle, and that the late Sultan's wife with two sons and a daughter, who belong to the royal family, are deprived of their daily food now by Ibrahim Didi, although each Government has to provide according to law. The late Sultan's wife is sister to the petitioner. In conclusion, the petitioner begs to submit that all the wickedness and cruelty are experienced by Ibrahim Didi's son, and on reference to previous letters from the Sultan's Minister who existed before Your Excellency will be able to learn further facts.

Such being the case, the petitioner prays that Your Excellency may not take one word of this as a falsehood, but if needs be inquiries may be made in the presence of the petitioner, for he is prepared to prove all he has stated.

For which act of great mercy and kindness the petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

July 25, 1907. H. ALI DIDI.

Copy of a Letter received from Maldive Islands to the address of Ali Didi, Treasurer of the late Sultan of the Maldives, dated June 26, 1907.

In the month of June, 1907, an English man-of-war reached Maldive Islands, and Ibrahim Didi and his sons went on board as a general rule. During the time that Ibrahim Didi was on board two officers and one sergeant went to the shore, and the said two officers went to the palace of the Sultan, and the said sergeant went along the roads to have a look in the island with Ahmed Didi Hakura Manikfan's photo. The sergeant had to pass the place where Hakura Manikfan was locked up and at the time the Ibrahim Didi's people thought that if sergeant see the Hakura Manikfan was locked up he might take him on board, and thinking that, they took the Hakura Manikfan out of the said house and tied up and taken to the seashore side to hide him somewhere, when he was taking on the way the sergeant saw him clearly and looked into the photo what he had in his hand, and satisfied that he is the very man called Hakura Manikfan. Then the said sergeant directly went to the palace of the Sultan and saw that the said two officers were talking there with the Sultan. The sergeant handed over to the said officers the said photograph. Then the officers showed the photograph to Sultan and asked him where the Hakura Manikfan was, and the Sultan replied by mark of sign saying that he is in the island, and another son of Ibrahim Didi gave the same reply to the said officers. Afterwards the two officers and the sergeant came to the place where Hakura Manikfan was locked up, and he was not to be found. Then the sergeant went to the place where he saw Hakura Manikfan, and found he was sitting in a side for a call of nature. The sergeant stopped till he finished the said matter, and brought him in the presence of the said two officers. And the two officers spoke to him, and do not know what he expressed to the officers. And then the two officers and sergeant went on board. After that Ibrahim Didi returned to the shore, and the said two officers followed him to the shore and went all the three to the place where Hakura Manikfan was, and sat down and offered a seat to Hakura Manikfan. By talking Hakura Manikfan related many things by crying to the officers, and do not know what sort of a conversation it was. After that the officers went on board. Thereafter Ibrahim Didi made an order to all the people in the island not to speak with the man-of-war people anything at all till it goes away. At last the man-of-war left Malé, and four days after that Hakura Manikfan was again locked up. Also Ibrahim Didi ordered all the Bombay merchants not to help and favour to Ali Didi at all. If they help, Ibrahim Didi said that he will break their shops, &c., and ruin altogether.

No. 158.

Ex-Sultan Muhmmad Imad-ud-din to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

Suez, July 20, 1907.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I HAVE the honour to submit the following information to your kind consideration, hoping thereby that redress will be obtained.

Mandogi Don Didi, my aged mother, who is approaching four score years, and living in the island of Malé, has been victimized in consequence and at the instigation of Ibrahim Didi, and threatened with exile from her home.

I am now in possession of a detailed statement, which is corroborated by the press of Colombo, and leaves small room for doubt that what was once a rumour is now unfortunately a substantiated fact. My aged and infirm mother has been banished to one of the many atolls in pursuance of the unprovoked policy of the internal government of the Maldive Islands to expel all those in any way connected with the late administration which recognized me as Sultan.

Imbued with the high sentiments of loyalty to our Emperor and his throne, I am fully assured that by laying this painful matter before Your Excellency you will judge it expedient to institute measures whereby my parent will be enabled to return to Malé, her home, and enjoy the blessings of peace and security. If, however, it should happen that the remedy I solicit is not easily attainable, I will beg Your Excellency to grant me permission to have my mother conveyed to Suez, where she will find the rest so necessary to one advanced in years.

I beg to enclose for Your Excellency's perusal a report as well as two newspaper cuttings.

MUHAMMAD IMAD-UD-DIN,
Ex-Sultan of Maldives.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 158.

Press Cuttings.

(1) *The "Unrest" in the Maldives.*

The latest report regarding the state of affairs in the Maldives is that the mother of *ex*-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din has been banished to one of the numerous atolls, in pursuance of the alleged policy of the present ministry to get rid of all those in any way connected with the late Government. Ali Didi, a Minister of the deposed Sultan, who is said to have left the Maldives because he was being harrassed, is still in Colombo, awaiting a reply to a memorial he has addressed to His Excellency the Governor.

(2) *Maldivian Troubles.*

Some short time ago some Maldivians, who were said to have been cruelly treated, came to Colombo, having left the Maldive Islands and travelled in an open canoe all the way from there. On their information—so it was at the time understood—a man-of-war was sent from Colombo to Malé to make inquiries. The vessel went over to the islands and took the people there by surprise. An investigation by the Captain of the "Hyacinth" followed and the vessel left. News has now come to hand from the islands that no sooner the "Hyacinth" left the *ex*-Prime Minister Hakura Manikfan was severely chastized by some persons interested, and that the former Sultan's wife was deprived of a lot of her jewellery and money, &c., besides being otherwise ill-treated.

The present Prime Minister's son, Ahamed Didi, has left Malé for Colombo, and is now expected at any time to arrive in Colombo by the schooner "Mary."

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 158.

Hajee Ali Didi and three others to the *ex*-Sultan of the Maldives.

Colombo, June 30, 1907.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HIGHNESS,—WE humbly beg to bring to Your Highness' notice some of the atrocities committed in the Maldives during these days. First, your mother was told that she is about to be exiled from Malé to a certain island; hearing this all the gold jewels and money sovereigns that were in the house she tied them all in her waist and ready to go to the island, but on her way from the house to the ship she was shamefully brought before a number of public people and was made her to expose and give over all the said jewels and sovereigns and was forcibly confiscated to her great sorrow, besides she was sent to Garadoo island.

Secondly, the Sultan's people entered into Mandoogey house and broke open all the boxes belonging to Your Highness' brother and took away all the letters that were in them.

Thirdly, we beg to inform you that Your Highness' brother, Dori Manipulu, was imprisoned in Asgehigadoowaroo, and his younger brother to Velanagey; besides, Your Highness's father was imprisoned in Mandoogey.

Fourthly, Ibrahim Didi has sent some of his people to Byhikagey Usubufuloo's house and made him to come out when he was sleeping and severely assaulted him and took him to Ibrahim Didi, and so tied his hands to his back; the skin as well as the flesh protruded out and a large quantity of blood issued from the wounds, and also his legs were locked up in a block and left. The same torture was given to the parties mentioned below: (1) Lotalagey Hassan Didi, (2) Feeru Tutu, (3) Bucha Doncalyfan, (4) Newigey Ibrahim Fulu, (5) Maradagey Codamanicku, (6) Feebo Hadjee, (7) Kamana Hassan Fulugey Domanicku, (8) Muridu Tutu. With about fifty more and your servants as well as all the servants of your father and brother were treated in like manner and were imprisoned where Ibrahim Didi and Kateeb Seedi and Abdul Majeed with his servants go and inflict different punishment and torture each of them: beside not all these, they were blocked with their legs and were bent their head to the leg and whipped severely on the back until the skin is given up from the back; after these some chillies were squeezed with salt water and applied to the parts scalded, said to be its medicine, and some people were hung head low and then beat to the soles of the feet; after the skin is given up from the feet, red hot iron is applied to the scalded soles; when they cry with pain, ground chilli is applied to the wound, saying it is medicine, and then they were ordered to stand, when they fall down from the pain and rolled round the said Ibrahim Didi, and his comrades used to laugh saying it is a best sort of dance. After this torment they were allowed for a number of days when the wounds were not yet cured, they were made to shave their eyebrows and beards with each other; after this it is shaven. Abdul Majeed, son of Ibrahim Didi, present them a looking-glass and tell them their feature is much prettier than it was before; this way he do repeatedly. After this punishment they were taken to the seashore; in the presence of residents they were made to lie down with their backs naked, they were held by their arms with four or five people on each limb and whipped until skin given up from the back; when they are in this state they were transported to separate islands with orders to the inhabitants of the island not to treat them with medicines or to do them any kind acts.

Fifthly, many of the people who were exiled four years ago were sent for and were treated the same way as mentioned above, among whom Ahmed Didi Hakura Manikfan and his son Mohamed Didi were sent a cunning letter sealed by the seal of the Sultan, in which it is stated that the Sultan wanted him to reinstate him into his former office; reading this letter Hakura Manikfan and his son came to Malé harbour with the men who were sent in the boat. As soon as he came to the harbour he was seized unknowingly by ten or twelve of Sultan's men and tied with his hands to the back and assaulted severely. Then he was tied with a rope to his waist and was landed to the jetty, when in this state Abdul Majeed, Ibrahim Didi's son, gave him a slap to his cheeks, which made him fall to the ground senseless, after which he was removed to Weyodorugaduwaroo house, where he was locked up in a block by the leg, where he was treated the same way as the rest of the other people, and was applied to the scars with ground chillies and was tied up to the ground and was burned a fire around him, and also his son was sent to Tuddu island after beating him severely. And Hakura Manikfan's mother was divorced from her husband named

Mafaitakarufan and was banished to Mamajeeli island with her two sons named Mohamed Didi and Ibrahim Didi, but Hakura Manikfan is in locked up with moving till now tying a rope to his waist. Ahamad Manick Deykunugey was kept in custody, and where he was frightened to divorce his wife who was afterwards sent to her house, and Ahamad Manick Deykunugey was sent to his house.

We are very sorry to acquaint Your Highness that three or four people who were tortured after this manner suffered severely and by starvation. The thing we have written in this all we have seen with our eyes, and we are all Your Highness' obedient servants.

HAJEE ALI DIDI.
EGAMGEY ABDALLA DIDI.
VELANAGEY MOHAMAD DIDI.
SAID IBRAHIM DIDI.

No. 159.

Petition of Ali Didi of Malé and Treasurer to the late Sultan, now at 85, in Hulftsdorp street, in Colombo, to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Ceylon.

Colombo, August 6, 1907.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH.—THAT the petitioner begs to submit a copy of a letter received from his sister at Malé (the late Sultan's wife), and prays that Your Excellency would read the contents in full, from beginning to end, with due consideration.

That Your Excellency, whilst going over this painful letter, written by the hands of a woman, will no doubt see how the cruelties experienced by Ibrahim Didi on the innocent people of the Maldives are hidden from the eyes of the British Government, but the petitioner is more than confident that Your Excellency will now be able to remove the veil that covered the wicked deeds of this man Ibrahim Didi.

Wherefore the petitioner craves at Your Excellency's feet, and begs that the poor sufferer at Male, such as Hakura Manikfan, may be released from the cruelties imposed on him by Ibrahim Didi before death would result, and bring him under the protection of the British Government, and the petitioner in conclusion prays that if Your Excellency desires to make a special inquiry into the facts, that it should be done by bringing them to Colombo, or by taking the petitioner to Malé, under Your Excellency's protection, and everything would then be enlightened.

For which act of great mercy and kindness the petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

H. ALI DIDI.

Enclosure in No. 159.

Copy of Letter referred to in Petition.

I AM sending my best salaams through this letter to my brother Ali Didi as well as your son, and also to my elder brother Abdulla Didi. Sorry to inform my three children at this time are very ill, my eldest son suffering with fever and scratching all over his body with an awful eruption, having no appetite, and is very weak; my younger son is also suffering with a strange attack of an eruption; and my little daughter is suffering with an acute pain and swelling of the neck, accompanied with symptoms of fever. Doctor Wadoogey Isakely Fan is in attendance, but at times there is no one to go for him in a case of emergency and no medicine to be had, and such are the troubles and miseries I undergo.

My brother Hakura Manikfan is still in prison. They give him to eat very hot food, something like chillies, so that he cannot relish, and it appears that one day some one pitied him and gave his handkerchief to wipe his hands after meals, and no sooner Ibrahim Didi heard of it that man was at once dismissed from his duty.

Ibrahim Didi's people now say that they will tie a rope round Hakura Manikfan's waist and take him all round the island to disgrace him; they will no more banish him nor send him to his house, but they will keep him in prison till he dies. No relatives are allowed to see him, nor to send him any food; his health is all gone, and it is about two months once that he has a bath; he is not allowed to change his dress, nor to mend his nails, or even take a crop and shave, or even pray; such are the miseries of his present life. I hear he is also suffering from an attack of diabetes, but no relative could see him nor give him any medicine.

On Monday night, the 12th Jamadulavval, 1325, that is, June 22, 1907, Ibrahim Didi's people entered my house, but I was not at home—I had gone to Velanagey—and I returned at once when I heard of it. I found my room filled up with Ibrahim Didi's people. When I got in Ibrahim Didi's son Abdul Majeed, Habib Seedi, and Don Manik Ismail Didi told me they had come with Sultan's order, but I told them plainly I do not like to hear what they had to say, because last night also I spoke to you so kindly and you told Sultan quite to the contrary to hurt him, so that if I tell you anything now you may perhaps tell Sultan that I abused him in indecent language, exposing his father and mother also. At this stage Abdul Majeed, son of Ibrahim Didi, told me we do not want to hear anything from you, but open and show us all your boxes or give us all your keys. I told them I cannot give them all my keys as I am a female, and have secrets that I cannot open and show them; no sooner I said these words there was a man by the name of Buburulaky, who on Abdul Majeed's order began to break open my boxes and throw out the contents, but when they began to see my secrets in the presence of such a number of people I got so much ashamed that I rushed into the crowd to get them, when Abdul Majeed, Katib Seedi, Fada Ally Furoo, and Falliya Mohammed Didi caught me with some others and pressed me to the ground, rubbing my hands so roughly on the floor that skin went out from each hand in several places; my pains were so great that I do not know who the others were. One of my fingers has been dislocated. My bodily pain was so great that I begged of them for the sake of God not to kill me, nor even touch my body, as I will not hide any valuables, but that I only want to hide my secrets, and began to cry through pain. On hearing this my son Dori Manipulu (who is the eldest son of the last Sultan) came running towards me crying with fear and embraced me, when Katib Seedi chaffingly remarked, cry more loudly boy, and pushed him to the ground; then Abdul Majeed told him to go inside. I could not bear this, and then told Katib Seedi, whatever you want to do to me do not kill a small prince, his age is only

ten years, and asked my son to go far, or perhaps they may kill him, but he was on the ground crying with pain and saying Katib Seedi was killing him. My younger son and my only daughter were also most bitterly crying standing at some distance.

They have broken all my boxes, as well as all my husband's boxes (the last Sultan's): they have taken away all the letters, gold, jewellery, ambers, gold sovereigns, and also all the dresses, &c., and all what I had.

They also took away my brother Ali Didi's title deeds relating to his two gardens with a house, also all my deeds in connection with those I received from the last Sultan, those I got from my friends, and also from my brothers, and they even took away all my religious books. I am unable to express my feelings to you in writing unless we meet together. I am unable to say my religion.

The next evening after this had taken place one Don Manik Ismail Didi brought back the box which they had taken the previous day. I saw the box was empty, and told him that I did not require an empty box, give it to them who took all the things from it, but he threw the box into my house and went away saying, You took all the things from that box.

Contents in that Box.

One tin filled with ambers.
One gold necklet filled with 50 chains at back and 14 dollars in front.
One gold necklet filled with 30 chains at back and 14 dollars in front with double dollars.
One gold necklet filled with ibrahims, being old coins of gold.
A lot of earrings filled with rubies.
One gold necklet filled with 11 chains.
Eight gold bangles which I got from my father.
One gold necklet which I got from my father.
Thirty gold earrings which I got from my brother Ahmed Didi Hakura Manikfan filled with rubies.
One gold necklet, property of my eldest son, filled with dollars.
One gold necklet, property of my eldest son, filled with ibrahims (old coins).

Also all the jewellery which my two other little children had. One gold necklet filled with 20 thin chains, the property of Don Sittee, a distant relative of mine, which was kept for safety; and among the dresses taken away were also my servants' clothes. My servants now ask me for their things, and I had to ask Ibrahim Didi if he likes to keep my things and return what is others, so that I may give them, as I am without a cent to pay them, but never received the things nor a reply. But now I hear from Ibrahim Didi's people that they are arranging to exile me by next month, so I pray that you will kindly try to save me by the help of the Almighty and take me and my three children, together with my brother Hakura Manikfan, to Colombo and put us under the protection of the British Government instead of being kept in Malé to suffer any longer.

Kindly also inform my husband, the last Sultan, about the troubles and miseries I am undergoing with my three children, as we are almost suffering of starvation, but your wife is only helping us with a little rice every month, and we are only living on that and nothing more to eat. Ibrahim Didi has put a stop to the usual food granted by the Maldivian Government since its existence.

When the British man-of war came here the other day, I thought by the grace of God that we may be relieved by the help of the British Government, as the inquiry on the first day was so very sharp, but on the next day matters suddenly changed and deeper sorrow entered our hearts. I heard people say that Ibrahim Didi had given many ambers, plenty of money, and lot of other presents, and I believe this to be true, as no sooner the man-of-war started Ibrahim Didi displayed more cruelty towards us than before, and took all what we had to cover the expenses made on arrival of the man-of-war, and this is what they say. Ibrahim Didi's people also spread rumours to say that the man-of-war brought news to say that her two brothers who had come to Colombo had been imprisoned, and that she had come to take Hakura Manikfan also to Colombo to give him the same punishment, but they refused to give him as the punishment here would be worse than British imprisonment, and such heart-rending words they utter before me.

All their cruelties I am unable to describe in writing. I am praying to God day and night to save me from the claws of Ibrahim Didi. Now here is bad cholera prevailing, and I am afraid of that also owing to ..... Again, after the man-of-war left Malé, Ibrahim Didi's son, Abdul Hameed, also left for Colombo with lot of money in gold, &c. This you may consider as my last letter to you, for if Ibrahim Didi comes to know anything about this I am sure he will kill me, as he has made orders to all the people that if anybody takes a letter from me to Colombo he will at once banish him. So I believe he will do this, because once a man took a letter from Hassan Didi Wilana Manikfan's wife to Hassan Didi Wilana Manikfan, and Ibrahim Didi at once banished him to a far distant place; and now they say if anybody does the same they will be exposed to a greater punishment, and if they come to hear about this letter they will at once kill me.

Kindly pray to God for me.

AGGAMUGEY DIDI.

Note.—No reply was sent, either to No. 158 or No. 159.

Proposal for Netherlands Consul to have Jurisdiction over Maldives.

(Policy of Ceylon Government regarding Maldivian Internal Affairs.)

No. 160.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., to Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G.

Ceylon.—Miscellaneous. Downing street, June 19, 1907.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to inform you that a re-arrangement has recently been made of the Netherlands Consular districts, under which the Netherlands Consul at Colombo will in future have jurisdiction also over the Maldives. I have to request that you will recognize him in that capacity.

I have, &c.,

ELGIN.

No. 161.

Telegram from Sir Hugh Clifford, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., dated July 11, 1907.

REFERRING to your despatch, Miscellaneous, of June 19, strongly urge inadvisable extend Consular jurisdiction over Maldives to any foreign power. Despatch follows by mail.

No. 162.

Telegram from the Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., to Sir Hugh Clifford, K.C.M.G., dated July 12, 1907.

IN reply to your telegram of yesterday's date take no action on my despatch.

No. 163.

The Hon. Sir Hugh Clifford, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

Confidential. July 15, 1907.

MY LORD,—REFERRING to Your Lordship's despatch, Miscellaneous, of June 19 last, and in continuation of my cypher telegram of the 11th instant, I have the honour to inform you that I have taken the liberty to defer action upon the instructions conveyed to me in the despatch above quoted pending further reference to Your Lordship.

2. The relations of the Sultan of the Maldives with the British Government, as represented by the Government of Ceylon, are set forth in the letter from the Sultan addressed to Sir Arthur Gordon (now Lord Stanmore) on December 16, 1887,* and the most important of provisions contained in this document are the request of the Sultan to be protected by the British Government from external aggression, and the promise given that the Sultan and his successors "will not enter into any agreement with any of the other Powers but the English, and will not be friendly with them." The correspondence of which this letter formed a part was forwarded to the then Secretary of State in Sir Arthur Gordon's despatch, Miscellaneous, No. 2 of 1888.†

3. That agreement remains in force and unaltered up to the present time, and the policy of His Majesty's Government, in the terms of Mr. Chamberlain's despatch No. 403 of October 25, 1901,‡ has been "as far as possible to abstain from intervening in the local disputes of the Maldives." Such abstinence has not, however, always been possible, and as recently as June 11 last Sir Henry Blake considered it necessary to ask the Commander-in-Chief of the East Indies to despatch a ship of war to Malé for the purpose of inquiring into certain complaints of torture inflicted upon a political prisoner, which had been made by his relatives, who were and are fugitives in Ceylon. I enclose for Your Lordship's information the papers noted in the margin§ which have reference to this incident, and from the report of Captain C. S. Hickley, R.N., it will be seen that, though the allegations made concerning the torture inflicted were exaggerated, the political prisoner in question had been subjected to considerable ill-treatment, and that the Sultan, at the instance of his advisers, courteously but firmly refused to allow him to leave the islands.

4. I do not propose to attempt any further action in this matter pending the arrival of Sir Henry McCallum.

5. The incident assumes, however, an importance which would not ordinarily attach to it in view of the proposal contained in Your Lordship's despatch under reply that the jurisdiction of the Netherlands Consul at Colombo should in future be extended to the Maldives, for if this be finally approved, I would submit that the whole question of our relations with the Sultan will call for revision.

6. So far as my present information goes, there are not at this moment any Dutch subjects resident in the Maldives, but I make little doubt that, if the jurisdiction of the Netherlands Consul be extended to include the archipelago, this will very shortly cease to be the case, and it is further to be apprehended that as a natural sequel foreign firms will presently enjoy a practical monopoly of the trade of the islands.

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* See Enclosure in No. 9 in Part I. † See No. 12 in Part I. ‡ See No. 66 in Part I. § See No. 147 *et seq.*

7. This, I venture to think, is in itself undesirable, but a much more important consideration is the position in which the Government of Ceylon will be placed, in the event of Dutch subjects receiving ill-treatment at the hands of the Maldivian authorities—a by no means improbable contingency—and appealing for redress through their Consul. At present, as noted by Sir West Ridgeway in his despatch, Miscellaneous, No. 382 of September 24, 1901,* paragraph 4, the Government has engaged in a somewhat "unreserved manner" not to interfere in any way in the local affairs of the Maldive Islands "in either the framing or the administration of the laws or in any other matter of purely local concern," and though, as I have already noted, this stipulation has not been observed with any very scrupulous fidelity, the action which from time to time has been taken has hardly been of a kind calculated to satisfy the subjects of any European power. Theoretically, no doubt, the Government would be within its rights were it to refer any aggrieved persons to the Sultan for the redress they sought, but practically, I would submit, such action would prove to be ineffective, and the hand of the Government would probably be forced, no matter how great our reluctance to intervene.

8. In these circumstances, I would respectfully suggest, for the consideration of Your Lordship, that the proposal to sanction an extension of the jurisdiction of the Netherlands Consul to the Maldive Islands should be abandoned; but if this cannot now be done, I would submit that circumstances would appear to be bringing us face to face with the necessity, so long avoided, for appointing a British Officer to reside in the Maldives, and for conferring upon him powers somewhat in excess of those exercised by an ordinary Consular officer.

9. The position (though, both as regards the abuses practised by the local authorities and the territorial area involved, the question is, as regards the Maldives, on a much less striking scale) is in many respects analogous to that which existed in the Malay State of Pahang in the years 1886–1887, and reference to the action then taken may, perhaps, prove serviceable, if it is not found possible to adopt the course advocated in the first portion of the preceding paragraph of this despatch.

10. Since writing the above I have received Your Lordship's telegram of the 12th instant, and note your instructions that no action is to be taken on the despatch under reply.

I have, &c.,

HUGH CLIFFORD.

No. 164.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

Confidential.

The Queen's House, Colombo.
Ceylon, September 10, 1907.

My Lord,—I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that on the 27th ultimo I sent you a cypher telegram, of which the following is a paraphrase:—

"Referring to paragraphs 2 to 4 of confidential despatch of July 15,† it was a mistake to send a man-of-war to the Maldives without a Civil Commissioner to represent the Governor. I consider that, although the Sultan's reply is disconcerting, he might fairly hold that to keep political offenders in the Maldive Islands is preferable to giving them a chance of residing in Ceylon and intriguing from here. I propose to write and inform him that I have assumed the Government, and that the Naval Officer's report on the ill-treatment of a political offender has been laid before me. I would go on to express regret at the undue severity he has used, and would point out to him that as he is under the protection of His Majesty the King such practices must cease. Finally, I would add that I shall be glad to receive an assurance from him that he quite understands this, and for the future will act accordingly. Do you agree?"

2. On the 2nd instant I received the following reply:—

"With reference to your telegram of the 27th ultimo, it has been the settled policy of His Majesty's Government that there shall be no intervention in the affairs of the Maldive Islands beyond what is absolutely necessary, and I therefore deprecate any interference that can be avoided, though leaving the matter to your discretion. Should some representation be in your opinion essential, you would no doubt frame any letter you might write in as courteous terms as possible, and avoid saying anything that would impair the Sultan's dignity in the eyes of his subjects, or weaken his vigilance. If you do send any letter, it might be well that the Colonial Secretary, or some other high official of the Colonial Government, should take it."

3. I enclose copy of letter which I have written to the Sultan. I considered it best to make no demands therein, but to couch it in conciliatory terms, referring to the matter as an incident only, and expressing a hope that His Highness would take such steps as would prevent its recurrence in the future.

4. After the despatch of my telegram an Ambassador from the Sultan requested an interview with me. This gave me the opportunity of handing my letter to him instead of sending it by the Colonial Secretary or other high officer.

5. The Ambassador conveyed to me the usual congratulations from the Sultan on my assumption of the Government, and hoped that the protection and friendship which he had enjoyed in the past would be continued.

6. My remarks were similar in tone to those in my letter, but I added that, if the delinquent who had been maltreated would take an oath of fealty to the Sultan on the Koran, it would be a matter of gratification to me if the first act of His Highness in his relations with me were to restore him to liberty.

7. I have at the same time forwarded a present to the Sultan in return for that which he sent to me, and which, in accordance with Colonial Office regulations, has been handed over to the Treasury.

I have, &c.,

HENRY McCALLUM.

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* See No. 65 in Part I.

† See No. 163.

Enclosure in No. 164.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, September 7, 1907.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I BEG to thank you for the handsome mat which you have sent me, and to assure you that during my administration of the Government of Ceylon I shall ever be ready to give Your Highness any advice or assistance in my power.

2. I was sorry to find from a report by the Commanding Officer of H. M. S. "Highflyer" that one of Your Highness' subjects had been treated with undue severity by the directions of your Ministers. The British Government which I represent does not want to interfere in anything which concerns the internal affairs of the Maldive Islands, but as they extend to Your Highness their friendship and protection they are interested in the well-being and happiness of your subjects, and hope that orders will be given by Your Highness which will prevent the recurrence of any such unfortunate incident in the future. I shall be glad to receive an assurance from Your Highness that action has been taken to this effect.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

No. 165.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., to Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G.

Ceylon.—Confidential.

Downing street, September 11, 1907.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Clifford's confidential despatch of July 15, with regard to the affairs of the Maldive Islands, and of your cypher telegram of the 27th ultimo, in which you propose to address a letter to the Sultan on the subject of his treatment of political offenders.

2. Her late Majesty's Government pledged itself in 1887 "to interfere in no manner in the local affairs of the Maldive Islands in either the framing or the administration of the laws, or in any other matter of purely internal concern," and it has been a settled policy to intervene in such affairs only when absolutely necessary, or when, as in the case of the deposition of the *ex*-Sultan, intervention has been specially invited.

3. In the present case the situation is one of some delicacy. Ahmed Didi has apparently been subjected to treatment which in European eyes appears objectionable and needlessly cruel. On the other hand, it seems that in view of the fact that he was intriguing against the Sultan, there was some excuse for employing severe measures. I need not say that I agree with you that any ill-treatment of political, or indeed of any, offenders should be discouraged, but I gather from Captain Hickley's report that attempts are being made to undermine the Sultan's position, and as I have no desire to see another revolution in the Maldives, I am anxious to avoid any action which would tend to diminish the prestige of the present occupant of the throne.

4. Taking these facts into consideration, I despatched to you on the 2nd instant a telegram,* of which a copy is enclosed, stating that while I left it to your discretion to take such steps as you deemed necessary, I deprecated any unnecessary interference, and adding that if you thought it essential to make any representations to the Sultan, you would, of course, frame your letter in as courteous terms as possible, and avoid saying anything likely to weaken his position, or impair his dignity in the eyes of his people. I suggested further that it might be well to send your letter by the hand of Mr. Clifford or some other high official of the Government. This suggestion was made with the idea that the high rank of the envoy employed would serve as an indication to the Sultan and to his subjects at once that you considered it to be your duty to make representations as to His Highness' conduct, and also that you wished to show him the respect and courtesy to which his position entitles him.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

No. 166.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., to Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G.

Ceylon.—Confidential.

Downing street, September 11, 1907.

SIR,—WITH reference to the correspondence noted in the margin,† I have the honour to state that the Netherlands Government is being informed that His Majesty's Government cannot agree to the extension of the jurisdiction of the Netherlands Consul at Colombo over the Maldive Islands.

2. I am obliged to Mr. Clifford for calling my attention to the objections to the proposal.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

No. 167.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., to Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G.

Ceylon.—Confidential.

Downing street, October 4, 1907.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your confidential despatch of September 10, with regard to the letter which you have sent to the Sultan of the Maldive Islands.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

* See paragraph 2 of No. 164.

† See Nos. 160-163.

No. 168.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.
to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—WE beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September 7 last,* and to express our gratification at your readiness to give us any advice and assistance in your power.

2. We beg to offer Your Excellency our thanks for the same.

3. In reply to the 2nd paragraph of the above letter, we beg to assure Your Excellency that any such incident as reported by the Commanding Officer of H. M. S. "Highflyer" shall, by the help of God, never occur again in our Sultanate.

M. SAMS-UD-DIN.

Palace, Malé, 22nd Savval, 1325.
(November 29, 1907.)

* See Enclosure in No. 164.

Marauding Expedition (October, 1907).

No. 169.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—WE have the honour to submit the following to Your Excellency's consideration :—

1. Of the Maldivian rebels who took refuge in Ceylon in 1905, Hassan Didi died in the Civil Hospital, Colombo. His sons, Mohammed Didi and Ibrahim Didi, and their partisans, then went over to Calicut and Minicoy, whence, on the 8th instant, they landed with a body of Indians on some islands of the Thiladummati atoll and others of the Maldivian group. Having armed themselves with fire-arms, pistols, and cartridges, they overpowered the islanders, and robbed them of their money and other articles, as well as rifled the Government Treasury. Our subjects, the islanders, having no arms of their own, were frightened into subjection. On receiving the above alarming intelligence yesterday, and having also been told that the rebels are making towards our Malé (Sultan's island), we instantly despatched a reconnoitring party.

2. Further, we have explained their (the rebels') antecedents to the Ceylon Government in our letters of October 23, 1905,* and November 23, 1906.†

3. We have also instructed our Ambassador in Colombo to furnish your Government with full particulars regarding them.

4. We pray for assistance from the Ceylon Government to put down such disturbances and risings; for when once the rebels manage to make good their escape to Ceylon, they feel they are safe from any penalty our Government may inflict on them; and hence this prolific source of troubles and rebellions in our dominions. It was thus that this year Abdulla Didi and his brother Ali Didi and son caused disturbances here and took refuge in Colombo. We have reported about them by our letter of June 4 last.

5. We feel highly grateful to Providence for having placed us under the friendship and protection of the British Government and thereby ridding us of all fears.

May Your Excellency live long!

Malé Palace, 7th Ramlan, 1325.
(October 15, 1907.)

M. SAMS-UD-DIN.

No. 170.

The Maldivian Government Representative, Colombo, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

"Undine," Kollupitiya,
Colombo, October 21, 1907.

SIR,—I AM commanded by His Highness the Sultan of the Maldive Islands to bring to your notice the following, which had been communicated to me as his Envoy-Extraordinary to the Government of Ceylon.

2. Mohammed Didi and Ibrahim Didi, two sons of the late Hassan Didi, subjects of His Highness the Sultan, residing in Ceylon, left the Island by the Board of Trade steamer "Ceylon" during the latter part of August last and landed in the island of Minicoy. From there they appear to have collected men, six of them subjects of His Highness the Sultan, viz., (1) Saay Curracco, (2) Felidu Babu Ally, (3) Cassim, (4) Don Thakaru, and two others whose names are at present unknown, and nine Indians (names unknown) said to be from Calicut, India. Having provided themselves with arms, such as rifles, pistols, bayonets, &c., on October 7, 1907, they impressed into service a boat, promptly set sail from Minicoy, and effected a landing in one of the Maldivian Islands called "Vaikara Du." From that island they by force or persuasion took away with them one Malingey Manipulu, a cousin of the said Mohammed Didi, who was undergoing a sentence of banishment there. With him in their boat they set sail to and attempted to land in another island of the Maldivian group, viz., "Nolli Varam Faaru." Here the inhabitants, headed by their priest, opposed their landing, and threatened to appeal to His Highness the Sultan. Mohammed Didi, the leader of the expedition, declaring that he did not recognize the authority of the Sultan, was preparing to land by force, when, it would seem, on the advice or entreaty of the exile Malingey Manipulu, he desisted from doing so and returned to the island of the exile and set him down there. Thereafter the party made their way to another of the islands, "Laimagu" by name, which they reached on October 11, 1907.

3. On October 12, 1907, the whole party, fully armed, landed in the island of "Laimagu" and by force effected an entrance into the house of the "Atul-Vaari," or the headman of the place, who was at the time absent on business at Malé. They overpowered the watcher who was placed in charge of the house and proceeded to plunder the place, in which was stored rice and other articles, the property of the Maldivian Government. They removed from the house, according to information available at present, 6 bags of rice, 1¼ cwt. of Maldive fish, 2,000 coconuts, 2 jars of jaggery, a number of copper coins, several Government official letters and account books, and several other articles. They also visited the houses of some of the inhabitants, cut plantain bunches from their trees, and carried away their poultry. The inhabitants were intimidated into submission by the arms they carried, and which they made a show of using by pointing the firearms at, and threatening to shoot, any one who showed resistance.

4. Some of the inhabitants seeing that resistance was useless decided to seek the protection of the Sultan, and with that view prepared a boat to proceed to Malé, the seat of Government. As the boat was on its way, it was noticed by some men of the party, who immediately got into their own boat and chased the boat of the inhabitants. The former being a faster sailer found no difficulty in bearing on the other boat, which could not keep its course, but had to turn and seek the protection of the

* See No. 128. † See No. 139.

inhabitants of another island, "Holidu," which was on the way. The inhabitants of "Holidu" readily came to the help of the other islanders, and for a few minutes a severe struggle and consequent loss of life were imminent, but as darkness was then setting in the marauding party and their boat disappeared.

5. The two boats of the islanders the following morning set sail and reached Malé, where they gave information of the high-handed doings of Mohammed Didi and his followers. On October 14 a Government boat with the necessary men and equipment was sent to the islands which had been visited by Mohammed Didi, and according to the latest information the marauding party seem to have found their way to the "Laccadive Islands," where, after a short rest, it is said, they intend making another descent on one or other of the unfortunate islands of the Maldivian group.

6. I have set out as fully as possible all the facts and incidents as conveyed to me in a letter which reached me on October 18, 1907, and from what I have ascertained myself from some of the inhabitants of the Maldive Islands who arrived at Colombo on October 18, 1907. The inhabitants of the several islands are terror-stricken, and it is not possible for my Government to mount guards over the several islands, which are widely scattered about, and not within easy access of the seat of Government. The high-handed and criminal proceedings of these desperadoes, the open defiance of constituted authority both British and Maldivian, require stern and immediate repression and condign punishment to the culprits.

The solicitude and friendship invariably shown to my Government by the British Government, so worthily represented by Your Excellency, have been highly appreciated by His Highness the Sultan and gratefully remembered by him. In Your Excellency's Colonial Secretary His Highness is gratified to learn he has a sympathetic and kind friend, a cultured gentleman, well informed on all matters relating to Muhammadan rulers and their administration. When administering the Government of the Colony prior to Your Excellency's arrival, in an interview which His Honour was pleased to grant me, he assured me of the continued friendship and solicitude of the British Government for my Government, and of their readiness and anxiety to be of service to my Government at any time they need the good offices of his Government.

I can, therefore, with perfect confidence rely on Your Excellency's Government doing everything in their power to assist His Highness the Sultan in restoring order and maintaining the peace of his subjects, and in preventing a recurrence of acts of the kind of which I have given Your Excellency a full report. On behalf of the Sultan's Government, therefore, I have to bespeak the good offices of Your Excellency's Government, and to request that Your Excellency will be pleased, after such inquiry as you may be pleased to make, to take such steps as would lead to the arrest and punishment of the offenders. Your Excellency may, if so advised, cause such of the offenders as are Maldivian subjects to be delivered to my Government to be dealt with by them.

Assuring Your Excellency of the esteem and devotion of His Highness the Sultan,

E. A. HAMID DIDI,
Ambassador.

No. 171.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, to the Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, October 26, 1907.

SIR,—I AM directed by His Excellency the Governor of this Colony to forward to you, for the information of the Government of Madras, the accompanying translation of a letter† received from His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives and a copy of a letter‡ from the Maldivian Ambassador, regarding a marauding expedition alleged to have been carried out (with the assistance of some natives of India) by certain Maldivian exiles, who are reported to have escaped to the Laccadive Islands with their plunder.

F. J. SMITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 172.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

Miscellaneous.—No. 657. The Queen's House, Colombo, November 5, 1907.

MY LORD,—I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for Your Lordship's information, the accompanying translation of a letter* addressed to me by His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives and a copy of a letter† from the Maldivian Ambassador, regarding a marauding expedition alleged to have been carried out, with the assistance of some natives of India, by certain Maldive exiles, who are reported to have escaped to the Laccadive Islands with their plunder.

2. An occurrence of this kind happened on a previous occasion.

3. As the Laccadive Islands are under the jurisdiction of the Government of Madras, I have caused the incident to be reported to that Government.

4. I have further asked the Superintendent of the Board of Trade steamer "Ceylon" not to convey any passengers to Minicoy until he is further advised on the subject.

HENRY McCALLUM.

No. 173.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., to Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G.

Ceylon.—No. 595. Downing street, November 29, 1907.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 657 of November 5, with regard to affairs in the Maldive Islands.

ELGIN.

* For reply to this see No. 179. † See No. 169. ‡ See No. 170.

Hassan Didi's Sons Ibrahim Didi and Mohammed Didi.

No. 174.

The Maldivian Government Representative, Colombo, to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Kollupitiya, January 2, 1908.

HONOURABLE SIR.—WITH regard to the marauding party who recently went and plundered one of the Maldivian islands, I have the honour to inform you that Ibrahim Didi, brother of Mohammed Didi, accompanied by some servants have arrived in Calcutta. This information was received by me by wire this morning from our agent in Calcutta.

E. A. HAMID DIDI.
Maldivian Ambassador.

No. 175.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Maldivian Government Representative, Colombo.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, January 8, 1908.

SIR.—IN acknowledging the receipt of your letter of January 2, intimating that you have received information from Calcutta that Ibrahim Didi and Mohammed Didi accompanied by some servants have arrived at Calcutta, I am directed to inform you that the intelligence has been noted by the Ceylon Government.

2. The matter is, however, not one in which the Indian Government can take any action.

F. J. SMITH.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 176.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Inspector-General of Police.

No. 108. Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, January 8, 1908.

SIR.—WITH reference to the file of correspondence on the subject of the marauding expedition to the Maldives carried out by Ibrahim Didi and Mohammed Didi, the two sons of the late Hassan Didi, sent to you for perusal and returned with your report dated December 1, 1907, I am directed to inform you that the Maldivian Ambassador reports that he has received information by telegram from Calcutta that Ibrahim Didi and Mohammed Didi accompanied by some servants have arrived at Calcutta.

2. I am to request you to be good enough to convey this intelligence to the Inspector-General of Police, Madras.

F. J. SMITH.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 177.

The Inspector-General of Police to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Confidential.—No. 186. Colombo, May 4, 1908.

SIR.—WITH reference to your letter No. 108 of January 8 last and previous correspondence, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of statement made by Ibrahim Didi to the Criminal Intelligence Department.

C. C. LONGDEN.
Inspector-General of Police.

Enclosure in No. 177.

Statement of Ibrahim Didi.

My name is Ibrahim Didi, father's name Hassan Didi. My father was a Minister in the Court of the Sultan of the Maldive Islands, and held this position till the end of the year 1903. I was born at the Maldive Islands. Now I am twenty-three years old. My elder brother, Mohammed Didi, is about eight years older than myself. Ibrahim Didi, son of Ali Didi, my maternal uncle, was then Prime Minister. He is not holding the same position. About four years ago my father, together with myself, my brother, and 157 others mentioned in the list which is in my possession, were exiled from the Maldive Islands and the property confiscated by the Prime Minister. I and my brother had married two daughters of Ibrahim Didi, the present Prime Minister, before our exile. Mine as well as my brother's family are yet with the Prime Minister. He wants me to divorce my wife, so that he may give her in marriage to the Sultan. I have got a son about five years old, who is also with my wife.

After our exile, and during the time my father was alive, one Saith Karimji of Colombo, who is a friend of my father, helped us in money matters. My father died about a year ago, and we were left without any resources to support ourselves. All our property, consisting of five shops with merchandise, two gardens, and two ships, and other valuables, was taken away from us. During these four years I lived with my brother at Colombo and Calicut. We came to Calcutta in January last for the first time. Here I received a letter from my mother, who is with Ibrahim Didi, the Prime Minister, saying that we should never turn up to the Maldive Islands, otherwise we shall be beheaded. Having no resources of our own, I took employment in Turner Morrison's steamer as khalasi, and my brother went away to Bombay, and thence to Suez. I do not find myself equal to the task I have taken up, and much of my work is done by others who take pity on me. I pray that the Colonial Government may graciously move the Maldivian Government to allow us some pension or return our property, and we shall take up our permanent residence anywhere that Government chooses to fix.

My father died about fifteen months ago; then I, with my brother, came away to Calicut about one month after my father's death. I was in Calicut till the end of November, 1907, and then left for Calcutta. Two months before starting for Calcutta I received a letter from my aunt (father's sister) saying that Ibrahim Didi, the Prime Minister, was dealing with her very cruelly, and had put out one of her eyes. That he had imprisoned her son and was torturing him, and that she wanted us to go to Laccadive Islands and take her back to India. Then I, with my brother and six others of Malabar Coast, started in a native craft with the object of taking back with us our aunt, who is aged about eighty years. Our craft met with a contrary wind, and we had to fall back on Malabar Coast and came to Colombo. From Colombo we went to Calicut, and came to Calcutta *via* Madras. When we started for Laccadive there were four Hindus with us and two Christians. I do not know their names. They were my friends, and accompanied us simply for the sake of curiosity. I can recollect that Paul was one of our companions. He was a good singer, and can play on various kinds of musical instruments. He is just my age. He was then doing nothing. His father was a well-to-do man and could supply him necessary things.

H. A. MOORE.
Superintendent, Criminal Intelligence Office.

No. 178.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Inspector-General of Police.

Confidential.

Colonial Secretary's Office.
Colombo, May 21, 1908.

SIR,—I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your confidential letter No. 186 of May 4, forwarding a copy of a statement made by Ibrahim Didi to the Criminal Intelligence Department, Calcutta.

2. In reply, I am desired by His Excellency the Governor to request you to convey to the Criminal Intelligence Department, Calcutta, the thanks of the Government for the assistance rendered by them, and to ask that Department to be so good as to cause Ibrahim Didi to be informed that the Ceylon Government does not interfere with the internal affairs of the Maldives, and cannot therefore intervene on his behalf.

A. R. SLATER.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 179.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon.

No. 1,309-4.

Madras, December 16, 1908.

SIR,—IN continuation of my letter No. 6,142-1, dated December 4, 1907, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Ceylon Government, copy of an order passed by Mr. J. K. Lancashire, I.C.S., the Special Officer who inspected Laccadives and Minicoy at the end of last year, prohibiting Mohammed Didi from landing at Minicoy until further orders. The order has been confirmed by the District Magistrate of Malabar and by this Government (proceedings enclosed).

C. J. WEIR,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Order of J. K. Lancashire, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Head Assistant Collector, Malabar.

"Until further orders the Amin of Minicoy will not permit Mohammed Didi to land on the island: and in case of his arrival by boat he should be warned that he will be liable to be placed under arrest if he lands contrary to orders, or fails to quit the island within one hour of being warned to do so."

To Mohammed Didi, care of S. L. M. Sheriff Brothers, 85, Hulftsdorp street, Colombo, Ceylon.

Political Department, December 15, 1908.

Read the following paper:—

Petition from Mohammed Didi, Madras, to the Government of Madras, dated October 16, 1908.

Order No. 590, dated December 15, 1908.

The Government cannot accede to the petitioner's request, and declines to interfere with the order prohibiting his landing in Minicoy.

C. J. WEIR,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Petition from Mohammed Didi, Madras, to the Government of Madras, dated October 16, 1908.

YOUR Excellency's humble and loyal subject, Mohammed Didi, son of Haji Hassan Didi Wilana Manikfan, late Prime Minister of the Maldive Islands and the late Collector of sea customs of Maldives, begs most respectfully to be permitted to bring to Your Excellency's notice the cruel wrongs which he had suffered at the hands of the present Prime Minister, Ibrahim Didi, who treated him with the greatest injustice, and subjected him to hardships which he could no longer endure, and from which he had to flee to Colombo for justice and protection.

2. Ibrahim Didi is the present Prime Minister of Maldive Islands under Muhammad Sams-ud-din, the present Sultan of the islands.

3. The history of Ibrahim Didi will show that Sultans were puppets in his hands, and thus he is ill-treating every high official under that Sultan. Many high officials were banished from the island. This Ibrahim Didi was released from jail when the new Sultan came to the throne. On his return from jail he began to crush the Sultan, and the Sultan yielded to him.

4. Ibrahim Didi, with the object of enriching himself, began to take possession of the island by the help of his sons and brother. In order to fulfil his ambition, all the leading men were banished from the island. Among those that were banished were the Chief Justice, Ministers, the Treasurer, and many of the royal family members.

5. This Ibrahim Didi drove my father to Mafuni island, and all his property was confiscated by Ibrahim Didi.

6. Your Excellency's petitioner's wife was taken away unlawfully by Ibrahim Didi, and he was put to many hardships.

7. Your Excellency's petitioner not being able to bear his tortures, came away to Colombo. Even after he left that place this Ibrahim Didi sent one of his sons in disguise to take him back and put him to trouble.

8. Your Excellency's petitioner prays that an order may be passed to him to remain under British authority at Minicoy islands with his second family, and without any trouble from the above-mentioned Ibrahim Didi.

9. A copy of petition of M. Hassan Didi Wilana Manikfan, late Prime Minister to the Sultan of Maldive Islands and the father of Your Excellency's petitioner, is herewith enclosed* for Your Excellency's perusal.

Awaiting Your Excellency's favourable orders.

No. 180.

The Maldivian Government Representative, Colombo, to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Kollupitiya, November 11, 1908.

HON. SIR,—I HAVE the honour to inform you that Mohammed Didi, son of Hassan Didi, and the chief of the marauding expedition which visited one of the Maldivian Islands some time back, has arrived in Colombo a few days ago with his party, and has already joined with Ali Didi, himself an absconder from the Maldives.

2. I earnestly appeal to the Ceylon Government on behalf of the Maldivian Government, whom I represent, to have a watch over their movements in Colombo, especially at this time, for there are at present in the Colombo Harbour more than a dozen Maldivian vessels, and to protect the goods of the poor Maldivians from being plundered by these men. Yesterday they were seen on the passenger jetty from 4 to 7 P.M.

3. In connection with this information, I have the honour to inform you that Abdulla Didi, brother of Ali Didi above named, has at Calicut interviewed the *ex*-Sultan, who lately visited India *en route* to the Maldivian Islands, more than once.

E. A. HAMID DIDI.
Maldivian Government Representative.

No. 181.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Maldivian Government Representative, Colombo.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, December 1, 1908.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter dated November 11, 1908, regarding the arrival in Colombo of Mohammed Didi and his party from India, I am directed to inform you that the men in question will be kept under observation.

A. R. SLATER.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 182.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Maldivian Government Representative, Colombo.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, January 6, 1909.

SIR,—ADVERTING to my letter dated January 8, 1908, and previous correspondence, relative to Ibrahim Didi and Mohammed Didi, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to inform you that a letter has been received from the Government of Madras intimating that orders have been issued prohibiting Mohammed Didi from landing at Minicoy until further orders.

E. B. DENHAM.
for Colonial Secretary.

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* See No. 133.

Visit of ex-Sultan Imad-ud-din to Calicut (1908).

With object of regaining Sultanate.

No. 183.

The Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon.

No. S. D. 4,178. Special Department.
Poona, September 9, 1908.

DEAR SIR,—I AM directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon, copies of letters which the Government of Bombay have received from the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, and of the telegrams which were sent to him in reply.

H. O. QUIN.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 183.

Letters from the Commissioner of Police, Bombay.

No. 1,066. Bombay, August 29, 1908.

THE Commissioner of Police, Bombay, writes: Two Frenchmen named H. de Guisalles and A. de Bextel arrived in Bombay from Europe on the 28th instant per ss. "Egypt." They have with them an Arab companion named Muhammad Askandar and his Arab servant. They all have put up in the Apollo Hotel. On arrival H. de Guisalles declared that he had with him two rifles, one dagger, and a case of cartridges, which were detained by the Customs authorities. He had also a photographic camera. The other man, A. de Bextel, said that he had nothing dutiable, except a photographic camera and apparatus. The Customs authorities became suspicious, and asked him if he had any revolvers. He replied in the negative, whereupon they searched his person and found a loaded magazine revolver and a packet of 50 cartridges in his pocket. These were taken possession of by them, and his boxes were then searched; in them were found another packet of cartridges and a bundle of visiting cards describing him as carrying on two different occupations with a name which was different from the one under which he is travelling. He at first said that the cards were not his, but ultimately admitted that they were, and that the names thereon were his without De Bextel, which had been omitted. Both these cards are hereto attached marked A.*

The Arab Muhammad Askandar and his servant wore European coats, trousers, and boots, with ordinary cloth caps, and thus tried to disguise their nationality. The Arab being asked if he had anything dutiable in his boxes said that he had nothing. On searching his boxes two revolvers, 100 cartridges, some valuable State jewellery, an officer's uniform, a Diamond Jubilee Gold Medal, and a box containing photographic paraphernalia were found. All these, except the uniform and photographic apparatus, were detained by the Customs authorities.

While the search was being taken, Muhammad Askandar extracted from one of his boxes a packet and quietly passed it on to A. de Bextel, who concealed it in his cap, which he had in his hand. This being noticed by the Customs authorities the packet was taken possession of by them, and on opening it was found to contain several hundred cards as per copy attached marked B.* The Arab emphatically denied the cards being his, and said that they belonged to some one whom he met in Egypt. He further said that he was an Egyptian travelling for pleasure, and that his father-in-law, named Ahder Rahman Bey, Kamy, Suez, was a retired Egyptian officer owning half of Suez. He was asked to produce his passport, and said he had none.

They were all placed before the Collector of Customs to-day (August 29), who fined A. de Bextel Rs. 20.

The Arab gave out to-day that he is the Sultan of Maldives, but that as he was travelling *incognito* he wanted to conceal his identity. He produced a "registration" from the British Consul at Cairo to prove that he was a British subject. The whole party intends proceeding to Colombo. The Collector of Customs returned the jewellery, but has retained the arms, &c. The Arab pretends to understand no other language than Arabic, which he speaks like one of the lower classes, and the two Frenchmen who talk Arabic fluently were acting as interpreters.

In a subsequent letter, dated August 31, 1908, the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, reports:—

Muhammad Askandar *alias* the Sultan of the Maldives accompanied by the Arab servant left Bombay yesterday morning per ss. "Nowshera" (coasting steamer) *en route* to Colombo.

A. de Bextel left for Arkonum by the Madras mail last night, travelling second class ticket No. 866. This individual gave out that he was going to Calcutta.

H. de Guisalles has intimated that he will leave to-night for Colombo.

"Decremo" wired on the 1st instant that "the Sultan of the Maldives" was at home on his island. Consequently I had a wire sent to the police at Calicut asking them to keep a lookout on the arrival of the "Nowshera" and let me know if A. de Bextel should arrive and join the ship. Last night I received a telegram from the police at Calicut informing me that Muhammad Askandar had been joined by a Frenchman, who gave his name as De Bred, and that they were going to Malé. In consequence

* Not reproduced.

of this telegram a reply was sent to detain them on charges under section 420, Indian Penal Code, i.e., for cheating the Customs Officer. The District Superintendent of Police wired to me to-day for full particulars, which I have supplied him with, and have asked that the two persons be forwarded to Bombay, or released on bail to appear here. The Frenchman who gives the name H. de Guisalles is still in the Apollo Hotel. He now states that he is convinced that Muhammad Askandar is the ex-Sultan of the Maldives. This individual has no passport with him, and appears to be a very suspicious character. He says that his friend De Bextel has gone to Calcutta and not as alleged to Calicut. This man is being dealt with for abetting Muhammad Askandar in the offence of personating the Sultan of the Maldives in the presence of the Customs Officer when clearing his baggage, which contained valuable jewellery, which would not have been allowed to pass duty free had it not been for the representation made.

It is possible that Muhammad Askandar may be the ex-Sultan of the Maldives, but owing to the extraordinarily suspicious way in which he and his colleagues are moving about, it is impossible to say what move these two Frenchmen and Muhammad Askandar may not be up to. In addition to the above-noted charge against Muhammad Askandar, there is a charge of importing arms into India against him.

"Deeremo" has been informed by telegram, as he may be in possession of information regarding this gang.

Since writing the above, I have come in possession of a letter addressed to Mons. H. de Guisalles, dated the 2nd instant, from W. Croder & Co., Limited, Apollo street, Bombay, in which they refer to an arrangement, apparently suggested by De Guisalles, by which he wished to obtain a motor launch from them to tour along the coast from Bombay to Pondicherry. Messrs. Croder & Co. refused to supply a launch.

———

Telegram.

Telegram from the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, dated September 5, 1908.

CALICUT wires, District Magistrate declines extend remand Askandar and Frenchman beyond noon to-day. Kindly wire me reply to S. B. Letter sent yesterday explaining case requesting orders.

———

Telegram to Commissioner of Police, Bombay, dated September 5, 1908.

YOUR telegram regarding Muhammad Askandar. There is no case for orders of Government. Stop. If released from police custody, all the men should be most carefully watched. Deeremo being informed.

———

Letter from the Police Commissioner, Bombay.

Police Commissioner's Office,
Bombay, September 4, 1908.

DEAR QUIN,—In continuation of my No. 357-116 of yesterday. This morning I received the following wire from the D. S. P. of Calicut :—

"Your yesterday's telegram. Askandar says has five boxes with proprietor, Apollo Bunder Hotel, in which are papers proving him pensioner belonging Sultan Maldives family. Please verify. Wire result."

These boxes were taken possession of by the police yesterday evening, and the search has just come to an end now.

From the papers it appears that Muhammad Askandar was the Sultan of the Maldives from 1893 to the beginning of 1903. During his absence at Suez that year he was deposed and another ruler named Shamsoodin Khan appointed in his place by the people.

In a letter to Iskandar's address from the Governor of Ceylon, dated July 27, 1903, Iskandar then being in Ceylon, having hurried back from Suez on learning of his deposition, His Excellency informs him that if he is of opinion that the bulk of his former subjects are willing to receive him back as Sultan, he is free to return with his Ministers and followers and recover his throne.

Eventually the Governors of Ceylon were able to obtain for him from the Maldivian Government an allowance of Rs. 25 per diem. In November of that year Iskandar sailed for Suez, and it does not appear that he returned to Ceylon again.

It is now probably Iskandar's intention to proceed to the Maldives, and with the assistance of the two Frenchmen to recover his throne, and hence his arrival in the country.

Amongst other papers is a pocket book with typed names of ingredients for the manufacture of explosives with the Maldivian translations.

The two Frenchmen's names really are "Henri Planchon" and "A. de Dieber," the names "De Guisalles" and "De Bextel" being those of relations.

These two men apparently joined Iskandar in Egypt, and intended no doubt to assist him in his efforts to regain his throne.

Under the circumstances, is it desirable to bring Iskandar and the Frenchman De Bextel back to Bombay, though there is no doubt that they would be convicted under sections 419 and 109, Indian Penal Code? I should be glad to have Government orders in this matter.

Will you also refer to Ceylon, if necessary, as they must be able to verify all we have learnt from the papers.

———

H. G. GELL.

Telegram to the Police Commissioner, Bombay, dated September 7, 1908.

My telegram of 5th issued before your letter of September 4 opened. In the circumstances the charge under section 419 need not be proceeded with now, but men should be watched. The facts will be communicated to Ceylon.

No. 184.

Telegram from the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, to the Superintendent of Police, Calicut, dated September 8, 1908.

YOUR telegram of 4th to Police, Colombo. Please notify *ex*-Sultan that unless he returns forthwith to Suez his pension of Rs. 25 per diem will be stopped. Have him closely watched, and notify me by wire if he sails for Maldives. Warn him if he attempts to return Maldives the necessary steps will be taken by Government of Ceylon.

No. 185.

Telegram from the Superintendent of Police, Calicut, to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, dated September 12, 1908.

YOUR telegram 8th. instructions carried out. Individual now at Cannanore, reports himself ill, but will probably leave shortly. Will report fully when he does.

No. 186.

Telegram from the Superintendent of Police, Calicut, to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, dated September 14, 1908.

Ex-Sultan Maldives now at Cannanore. Requests permission to go to Colombo. Please wire instructions.

No. 187.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, to the Superintendent of Police, Calicut.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, September 17, 1908.

SIR,—I AM directed by His Excellency the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegrams of September 12 and 14, with respect to the *ex*-Sultan of the Maldive Islands.

2. In reply, I am to inform you that I despatched the following telegram to your address on September 17 :—

"Your telegram 14th. Direct *ex*-Sultan return to Suez under pain of his allowance being stopped forthwith."

3. His Excellency the Governor will feel obliged if you will be so good as to have a careful watch kept over the *ex*-Sultan and will report as to his movements.

A. R. SLATER,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 188.

Telegram from the Superintendent of Police, Tellicherry, to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, dated September 21, 1908.

REFERRING your wire, Superintendent Police, South Malabar, directing that *ex*-Sultan Maldives be informed that he must return to Suez under pain of his allowance being stopped forthwith, I have to inform you that those orders were duly communicated to *ex*-Sultan 19th. Similar orders had already been communicated to him on 8th instant. I received following reply from him 19th instant : "I am ready for Suez. Please send money to meet expenses." This untenable request constituted third attempt to evade obedience Government orders. When orders first communicated he reported sick. The doctor refused to grant him certificate. Next he submitted a petition to be permitted go to Ceylon instead Suez. Lastly, he cannot leave, presumably because he has no money. Beg instructions as to steps I must take. Kindly wire Tellicherry North, Malabar District.

No. 189.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, to the Superintendent of Police, Tellicherry.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, September 21, 1908.

SIR,—I AM directed to inform you that I despatched the following telegram to your address on September 21, 1908 :—

"Your wire. Procure passage to Suez for *ex*-Sultan, and if necessary for two native followers, not more. Cost will be recovered from his allowance. So inform. Give him no money."

A. R. SLATER,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 190.

The Inspector-General of Police to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

No. 405. Colombo, September 24, 1908.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to forward attached copy of telegram, received from the Superintendent of Police, Calicut, for information.

C. C. LONGDEN.
Inspector-General of Police.

Enclosure in No. 190.

Telegram from the Superintendent of Police, Calicut, to the Inspector-General of Police, Ceylon.

YOUR telegram yesterday. *Ex*-Sultan still at Cannanore. Will leave on receipt remittance from Frenchman Dieber ac Bextel. Says has no money for passage.

No. 191.

Telegram from the Superintendent of Police, Tellicherry, to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, dated September 25, 1908.

Ex-Sultan of Maldives left Cannanore to-day 9 A.M. for Calicut, whence I have asked Superintendent to book him passage to Suez. Steamers do not sail direct from Cannanore. I advanced rail charges.

No. 192.

Telegram from the Superintendent of Police, Cannanore, to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, dated September 25, 1908.

Ex-Sultan Maldives left for Calicut this morning.

No. 193.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Crewe, K.G.

Miscellaneous.—No. 652. The Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon, October 29, 1908.

MY LORD,—WITH reference to my despatch No. 657 of November 5, 1907,* relating to affairs connected with the Maldive Islands, I have the honour to report the following circumstances for the information of Your Lordship.

2. On September 7 last the local Police reported that they had received intimation from the Bombay Police to the effect that Muhammad Imad-ud-din, *ex*-Sultan of the Maldives, had arrived in Bombay on August 28, and that he was claiming to be the Sultan of the Archipelago. He was also reported to have embarked on the ss. "Nowshera" (coasting steamer) at Bombay *en route* to the Maldives in the company of two Frenchmen, and it was thought that he intended with their aid to make an attempt to regain the Sultanate. He was, however, detained at Calicut by the Madras Police authorities pending the receipt of instructions from this Government.

3. I then requested the Calicut Police to warn the *ex*-Sultan that the Ceylon Government would take the necessary measures to stop him if he made any further attempt to return to the Maldives, and at the same time to inform him that his pension of Rs. 25 per diem would be stopped unless he forthwith returned to Suez.

4. The *ex*-Sultan, however, delayed his departure on various excuses: first, applying for permission to come to Colombo instead of returning to Suez; then pleading sickness; and lastly, giving want of means as a reason for delay. Eventually, after he had been threatened with loss of his pension unless he returned to Suez forthwith, and when arrangements had been made for providing him with a passage, he left for Suez *vi i* Bombay by the ss. "Lalpoora" on October 8.

5. A copy of the correspondence which was forwarded by the Bombay Government on September 9 is enclosed.† From this correspondence it is clear that some attempt was in course of preparation, or was about to be made, to reinstate the *ex*-Sultan, and that it is owing to the prompt action of the Bombay Police that this was frustrated. I have accordingly requested that the best thanks of the Government of Ceylon be conveyed to the Bombay Police and the Police at Calicut and Tellicherry.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

No. 194.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Crewe, K.G., to Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G.

Ceylon.—No. 592. Downing street, November 19, 1908.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 652 of October 29, with regard to an attempt made by *ex*-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din to return to the Maldive Islands.

I have, &c.,
CREWE.

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* See No. 172. † See No. 183.

Marauding Expedition from Karachchi (December, 1909).

No. 195.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Inspector-General of Police.

Confidential.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, October 23, 1909.

SIR,—I AM directed by His Excellency the Governor to transmit to you for report the enclosed extract* from a report made by the Commanding Officer of H. M. S. "Proserpine" to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of the East Indies Station, with regard to alleged preparations being made by the *ex*-Sultan of the Maldives and other exiles for an intended attack on the Sultan.

E. B. DENHAM,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 196.

The Inspector-General of Police to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colombo, November 2, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to your confidential letter dated 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to reply that the Didis are being carefully watched.

2. Ibrahim Didi is attending a school, and Allal Didi is living quietly at their house in No. 5, Grandpass street. Mohammed Didi went to Tuticorin early in September, and the Tuticorin police have been communicated with. Carimjee Jafferjee and Haji Aliba, who are supporters of the Didis, are also being watched. There are no signs of activity at present.

3. No permits for Minicoy by Imperial Light Service ss. "Ceylon" have been granted since August 5, 1909, and as we always insist on the production of a certificate from the Maldivian Ambassador before a permit is issued, that avenue is closed.

4. The present Sultan would no doubt like to see the Didis in jail; if he has any definite information of men being enlisted in Colombo, or of any extraordinary movement on the part of the Didis, it is inconceivable to suppose that the Maldivian Ambassador would not have at once informed Government.

C. C. LONGDEN,
Inspector-General of Police.

No. 197.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's House, Colombo,
Ceylon, November 15, 1909.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Commanding Officer of H. M. S. "Proserpine," which recently visited your dominions, duly communicated to me Your Highness' message with regard to certain preparations which, it was said, were being made in Colombo by the *ex*-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din and other exiles for an attack on Your Highness.

2. I caused your message to be duly communicated to the Inspector-General of Police, with a request for a full report thereon. The Inspector-General of Police states that the exiles resident in Ceylon, and any persons who may be supposed to be likely to support them, are being carefully watched by the police, but that there are no signs of activity on the part of any of these men.

3. I would add that your representative here should be in a position to inform this Government if he suspects any action being taken here by persons unfriendly to Your Highness' Government.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

No. 198.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY Your Excellency prosper evermore!

WE beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 15 last informing us that in compliance with our letter sent through the Commanding Officer of H. M. S. "Proserpine" you have directed the Inspector-General of Police to watch carefully the Maldivian exiles, the partisans of *ex*-Sultan Imad-ud-din.

2. While expressing our thanks for the measures taken, we may state that we are not sure that the malcontents referred to have as yet given up their plots and schemes to cause troubles. On October 7, 1907, some of the *ex*-Sultan's partisans led an armed marauding expedition to some outlying islets of

* See paragraphs 14 and 15 of Commander Marshall's report enclosed in No. 321.

the Maldives, plundered our Government stores and other buildings, and made their escape to Ceylon before our police could have got at them.* Again, in 1908, the *ex*-Sultan himself left Suez, reached Calicut in India, and was preparing to cause troubles in the Maldives, when your Government promptly ordered him back to Suez.† Thus, there are ample reasons why they should yet be carefully watched.

3. We have instructed our Government representative in Colombo to report at once to your Government any suspicious circumstances that may come within his knowledge and notice.

4. To put down the wicked schemes and plots of our enemies, the assistance of your powerful Government is indispensable: and we earnestly appeal to you for such assistance.

We praise Almighty God for having placed us safe and secure under the protection of the Ceylon Government.

May Your Excellency enjoy long life and prosperity!

Palace, Malé, 20th Thulkatta, 1327.
(December 3, 1909.)

No. 199.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives,
to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY Your Excellency prosper evermore!

WE have the honour to inform you that certain partisans of *ex*-Sultan Imad-ud-din, viz., (1) Muhammad Didi, (2) Ibrahim Didi (the sons of the late Hassan Didi and of the two sisters of *ex*-Sultan Imad-ud-din's brother's wife), and (3) Abdulla Didi (the brother of *ex*-Sultan Imad-ud-din's brother's wife), have, with the help of some strong, stalwart Indians, made a second marauding expedition to a part of our territories. Of the Indians concerned, 8 are from Peshawar, 23 from Kavidda, near Rawalpindi, and 1 from Kutch Mandavi. There were also 4 Maldivians. Besides the crew of the buggalow, there were in all 39 men. The leader of the gang is one Jamadur Khan Shah; he said he had served the Indian Government as sepoy for five years.

2. The expedition started from Karachchi, touched at Bombay, and on the 5th crescent of Thulkadji (December 18, 1909) reached Hinnavar, one of the islands of the Padipoll atoll belonging to the Maldives. They stayed there three days. On landing there they put the islanders in fear and robbed them of their bracelets, other jewellery, and cash. They prevented the islanders from communicating the news to us at Malé. Some of the islanders, however, found means to send us information.

3. We put our island (Malé) in a state of defence and despatched some scouts. In the meantime the enemies re-embarked in their buggalow and forcibly took with them one of the island boats. They landed in another island called Kagi and robbed its inhabitants as well. Leaving their buggalow over there (at Kagi), they got into the boat and landed at Bados, which is an island 4 miles from our Malé. Their object—which we afterwards learnt—was to take us by surprise under cover of night and to capture Malé by force of arms; for they were not unaware of the weak state of our Government military defences in Malé. However, by the grace of God Almighty we had timely intelligence of their arrival at Bados, and we promptly despatched two of our buggalows and a few boats, equipped with arms as much as possible.

Our forces, having taken all necessary precautionary measures, signalled to the rebels to surrender. But as they did not do so, our forces fired blank shots at them. The rebels had already opened fire at our buggalows, which were lying near the island. So, finding that the rebels would not submit, our forces again fired twelve blank shots: whereupon they retreated to the interior. An hour afterwards four of them approached the seabeach and appealed for protection, which was readily granted. They were invited to get into our buggalow without fear. Besides these four, none others surrendered that day. The commander of our forces sent an ultimatum to Mohammed Didi to say that if they would not surrender before 10 next morning, he and his gang would have to stand a fight with the Sultan's forces and be at the mercy of their guns. Thereupon, by the grace of God, the rest of them, excepting the three Didis—Mohammed, Ibrahim, and Abdulla, who were brought up subsequently—submitted before the appointed hour.

4. Of the arms the rebels brought with them, a number of pistols, cartridges, &c., have been captured; some had been flung into the sea by them before their surrender.

Further, we have to inform Your Excellency that all of the captives are now safe in our custody and under our protection. Such of them as are British subjects we propose to send to you: we beg you to direct us how we are to do it.

In conclusion, we beg leave to impress on Your Excellency the sad plight we are placed in: our Government military defences are so weak. Our representative in Colombo would have by this time apprised your Government of all these matters.

It is a matter too well known to repeat here that we carry on the Government of the Maldives, not by the power of our arms or wealth, but by the goodwill and favour and friendship existing between the Governors of Ceylon and the Sultans of the Maldives.

5. We have, therefore, to earnestly implore your august Government to render us every assistance, and to take such steps in quarters over there (? in Ceylon and India) as are necessary to prevent similar troubles being concerted against us in the future.

6. May Your Excellency enjoy long life and prosperity!

Palace, Malé, 13th Thulkadji, 1327.
(December 26, 1909.)

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* See No. 169 *et seq.*

† See No. 183 *et seq.*

No. 200.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.
to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY Your Excellency prosper evermore!

IN continuation of our letter of the 13th Thulkadji, corresponding to December 26, 1909, we have the honour to inform you that the following distinct confession has since been made by the three Didis: Mohammed, his brother Ibrahim, and Abdulla:—

(1) That their design was to land at Malé in the night unexpectedly, force their way into the palace, kill their opponents, and capture the firearms and other weapons to be found there.

Note.—They were aware that the palace guards have no firearms; and that firearms are not available anywhere else except in the palace armoury.

(2) That after they had thus effected the capture of the arms in the palace, they were to attack the Sultan, his ministers, and any other opponents, and place the *ex*-Sultan's brother as Regent until the return of *ex*-Sultan from Suez. Their friends in Colombo had advised them that, in terms of an agreement existing between the Governments of Ceylon and the Maldives, the Ceylon Government will not interfere in case the Government of the Maldives were to be thus seized upon.

(3) That, further, one Carimjee Jafferjee, a native of Kutch Mandavi, and who is presently of Colombo and trading with the Maldives, was of service to them for the expenses of the expedition. That it was agreed to grant him the privilege of trading free of Customs duties. This privilege he had enjoyed for some time under the régime of the *ex*-Sultan Imad-ud-din.

(4) That (1) *ex*-Maldivian Interpreter S. L. M. Hadji Habibu, (2) his brother S. L. M. Sheriff, and (3) S. D. Abdul Hamid, son of the late A. L. M. Saibu Durai, made private purchases of pistols, cartridges, &c., required for the expedition. That, again, one Hassan Kuddi, a tinker of Malayalam, managed, owing to the negligence of the Customs officers, to smuggle the arms in a boat to Keelakari in South India, *viâ* Jaffna. From Keelakarai the arms were taken to Paumben, and from Paumben by rail to Calicut, where they were kept in the house of one Pattarakkal Hassan Moliar, nicknamed Kaddai Alim Saibu (the dwarf professor). From Calicut Abdulla Didi (who had already left Colombo and was at Calicut) and the Kaddai Alim Saibu packed up the arms in boxes and smuggled them by rail to Bombay.

(5) That Mohammed Didi went to Karachchi, and with the assistance of Carimjee's agent there collected a number of men from Peshawar and Kavidda. There were also four Maldivians, which brought the number of the band in all to 39 men. That they chartered the buggalow "Patta Karim" from one Hadji Usub Kamisa of Karachchi and went to Bombay. All warlike preparations were made there, and then they embarked with the assistance of one Sharff Ali Ibrahim Borah, who had retired from trading in the Maldives about five months ago.

(6) That H. Ali Didi (a brother of *ex*-Sultan Imad-ud-din's wife) and his son stayed in Colombo, for they were afraid that if they, too, were to leave Colombo, the Maldivian Government representative's suspicions might be aroused.

That last year (1908) *ex*-Sultan Imad-ud-din left Suez, reached Calicut, whence he went to Mahi, a French settlement in Malayalam, collected some Frenchmen, and was preparing to invade Maldives, when he was promptly ordered back to Suez by the Ceylon Government, whereby he was not able then to carry out his designs.

Further, we have to inform Your Excellency that *ex*-Sultan Imad-ud-din has not ceased from creating disturbances. We are thus placed in a state of alarm and danger by the machinations designed by him and his partisans. As the assistance of your august Government is indispensable to us for the suppression of their wicked acts and schemes, we anxiously hope that your Government will grant us adequate assistance in the matter.

We praise God Almighty for having placed us safe and secure under the protection of the British Government.

May Your Excellency enjoy long life and prosperity!

Palace, Malé, 20th Thulkadji, 1327.
(January 2, 1910.)

No. 201.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's Cottage,
Nuwara Eliya, February 12, 1910.

YOUR HIGHNESS.—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters dated the 13th Thulkadji, 1327, corresponding to December 26, 1909, of the Christian era, and the 20th Thulkadji, 1327, corresponding to January 2, 1910, reporting the circumstances under which a second marauding expedition against Your Highness' dominions was carried out by persons said to be partisans of the *ex*-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din with the assistance of a number of natives of India.

2. I regret very much to learn that the peace of Your Highness' dominions has been thus disturbed. I gather that you have obtained information that the expedition was equipped in India by Mohammed

Didi and the adherents of the *ex*-Sultan, and that it set out from Bombay. I have accordingly caused instructions to be issued for copies of Your Highness' letter to be sent to the Government of India, and have asked that Government to take steps to prevent Indian territory being made the base of operations of filibustering raids against the Maldive Islands. I trust that there may be no further disturbance from that quarter.

3. With regard to the prisoners whom you suggest sending to Ceylon, I would point out to you that the acts of robbery and firing at one of Your Highness' buggalows took place on shore in one of the Maldive Islands, where Ceylon Courts do not exercise jurisdiction. I am advised, therefore, that the Ceylon Government cannot interfere in the matter. It is possible that the Indian prisoners have committed breaches of the Indian Arms Act, and I would suggest that you should send the prisoners direct to India, reporting the full circumstances and the details concerning the removal of the arms to the Indian Government, and asking that such action may be taken as the law will permit.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

No. 202.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, to the Secretary to the Government of India (Home Department).

No. 863

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, February 14, 1910.

SIR,—I AM directed by the Governor of this Colony to forward to you, for the information of the Government of India, the accompanying copies of two letters* received by His Excellency from His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives, reporting that a marauding expedition against His Highness' dominions was recently carried out by alleged partisans of the *ex*-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din with the assistance of a number of natives of India.

2. It will be observed that the expedition is represented to have been equipped in India, and to have set out from Bombay. In view of these reports, His Excellency will be glad if the Government of India can take steps to prevent Indian territory being made the base of operations of filibustering raids against the Maldive Islands.

3. It has been suggested to the Sultan of the Maldive Islands that he should send back to India the natives of India who have been taken prisoners, with a full statement of the circumstances and the details concerning the removal of the arms from India. If it is found that the men have incriminated themselves under the Indian Arms Act or other local legislation, the Indian Government will no doubt take such action as it may deem necessary.

HUGH CLIFFORD,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 203.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Crewe, K.G.

Miscellaneous.—No. 101.

The King's Pavilion, Kandy,
Ceylon, February 24, 1910.

MY LORD,—I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for Your Lordship's information, copies of correspondence noted in the margin,† with regard to a reported marauding expedition against the dominions of His Highness the Sultan of the Maldive Islands, alleged to have been perpetrated by partisans of *ex*-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din with the assistance of a number of natives of India.

2. I also enclose a copy of a minute by the Attorney-General, on which the letters to the Sultan and to the Government of India were based.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

Enclosure in No. 203.

Report by the Hon. the Attorney-General.

THE statements do not disclose any offence which Ceylon Courts have jurisdiction to try. The alleged acts of robbery and firing at the Sultan's buggalow took place on shore in one of the Maldivian Islands, where Ceylon Courts do not exercise jurisdiction. If the offences had taken place on the high seas it would have been different.

2. I agree that little reliance can be placed on these statements. The authenticity of the alleged confessions of the three sons of Didi is open to question, and there appears to be a suspicious attempt to sweep into the net the principal members of the opposing faction.

3. It would appear probable that the prisoners have committed several breaches of the Indian Arms Act. I should be inclined to advise the Maldivian authorities to send the Indian prisoners back to India, and to place at the disposal of the Indian authorities any evidence they may have as to the removal of arms.

Colombo, January 21, 1910.

ALFRED G. LASCELLES,
Attorney-General.

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* See Nos. 199 and 200.

† See Nos. 179-202.

No. 204.*

The Inspector-General of Police to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

No. 174. Colombo, March 23, 1910.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to report that on December 19, 1909, Mohammed Didi (son of Hassan Didi), Ibrahim Didi, and Abdulla Didi, *ex*-officials of the Maldivian Government, attempted to raid Malé, the capital of the Maldivian Islands. These men left Ceylon, where they had been since the deposition of the late Sultan, for India three months ago. With a hired gang they landed on an atoll adjacent to Malé, where, however, the Maldivian troops captured them. They were then transported and lodged in Malé, to be dealt with according to the law of the land.

2. The prisoners confessed that the plot had been arranged with the financial co-operation of certain Moors and Borahs resident in Ceylon. It was intended to depose the Sultan and to arrange the return of the *ex*-Sultan, who receives a pension on condition that he does not come further East than Cairo. The plot was evidently engineered by those officials who had lost power on the deposition of the late Sultan. The offenders will be adequately punished by the Maldivian Government.

3. The principal adherents of the Didis in Colombo are :—

Habibu Hadjiar, an ambassador of the late Sultan. He also served a year under the present Sultan, but was dismissed. He looked after the Didis whilst they were in Colombo, until they had arranged a plan of action and left for India.

Carimjee Jafferjee, *Gulan Hassen*, and *Thaib Ali* also helped by giving them funds for their campaign. They are traders in fish and rice. *Hassen* has a store in the Pettah. *Jafferjee*, however, is financially crippled.

Abdul Hamid lives with his father in New Moor street. His father was the late interpreter. He looked after the Didis in Habibu's absence.

Noor Mohamed Hadjiar, brother of Habibu, lives at Grandpass, where he is a trader. Also assisted the Didis.

Moosah Bhai lives in the Pettah. He trades in Maldivian fish, and has a store there. He gave the Didis great assistance whilst they were here, and followed them to India when they left in order to further their plans.

Katta Alim Saibu is a priest and resides in mosques. He was the person who took messages to and from Colombo to India.

Mali Meen is a charmer by profession and resides in Gintupitiya street. He with *Abdul Rahaman* acted as intermediaries between the Borahs and the Didis.

4. Moosah Bhai followed Mohammed Didi and Ibrahim Didi to Bombay and thence to Karachchi. Here they all met, and Carimjee Jafferjee, their Karachchi agent, procured a buggalow for them. In this they loaded 15 or 16 barrels of cement, and inside these revolvers and guns. They then engaged 30 Pathans of Peshawar, stating that they required them to build a breakwater at the Maldives, and having got them into the buggalow armed themselves with these guns and revolvers and proceeded to the Maldives. I have informed the Criminal Intelligence Department, Simla.

5. Now that the Maldivian Government has captured these Didis, I would advise that they should be kept at Malé. If they are allowed to depart from the Maldives, fresh trouble is inevitable. These *ex*-officials will never cease in their attempts to depose the present Sultan and regain office, so long as they are exiled in other countries. Moreover, they will invariably be aided in this by those traders who cannot reap their unscrupulous profits under the present régime.

6. On this score I strongly recommend their retention in the Maldive Islands, where they can be under the strict supervision of the Maldivian Government itself.

C. C. LONGDEN,
Inspector-General of Police.

No. 205.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Maldivian Representative, Colombo.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, May 16, 1910.

SIR,—WITH reference to the personal representations made by you with regard to the second marauding expedition against the dominions of His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives, alleged to have been perpetrated by partisans of the *ex*-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din with the assistance of a number of natives of India, I am directed to forward to you herewith copies of letters received from the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab and the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, in reply to representations made by this Government as to the conduct of the Indians concerned in the marauding expedition.

2. I am to inquire whether you know what has become of the Indian prisoners.

E. B. DENHAM,
for Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 205.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government of Punjab to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon.

No. 180 (Pol.). Lahore, May 2, 1910.

SIR,—I AM directed to refer to your letter No. 863, dated February 14, 1910, to the address of the Government of India in the Home Department, regarding a marauding expedition against the dominion of His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives.

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* See No. 219.

2. From the letter of the Sultan of the Maldives dated December 26, 1909, which formed one of the enclosures to your communication, it appears that 23 Indians from "Kavidda" or Kahuta, in the Rawalpindi District in the Punjab, are concerned in the affair. To enable this Government to take any action on the reports, I am to ask that, if possible, the descriptions of the men in question, their anthropometrical measurements and finger and thumb impressions, and their alleged names may be furnished.

E. D. MACLAGAN,
Chief Secretary.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 205.

The Secretary to the Government of Bombay (Political Department) to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon.

No. 2,760. Bombay Castle, May 4, 1910.

SIR,—With reference to your letter to the Government of India, No. 863, dated February 14, 1910, regarding a marauding expedition against the dominions of His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives, I am directed to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the names of the raiders, with other particulars if available, and a description of the arms taken from them, may be communicated to the Government of Bombay to enable the necessary inquiries to be made.

2. As regards Carimjee Jafferjee, who is alleged to have financed the expedition, I am to state that from information received from the Political Agent, Cutch, it appears that till lately he was a prosperous rice and sugar merchant in Colombo; that recently he was in financial difficulties and was assisted by his son-in-law, Sir Adamji Pirbhai, Knight, of Bombay, and that he bears a good reputation in Cutch, which place he last visited some four years ago.

J. H. DUBOULAY,
Secretary to Government.

No. 206.

Petition of Hajee Mahomed Hajee Usoof, of Karachchi, in India, and presently of Colombo, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—THE petitioner begs leave to appeal to Your Excellency for redress and relief in the following situation of grievous injustice and urgent hardship.

2. The petitioner is the son and the duly constituted attorney of Haji Yousaff Khanissa, of Karachchi, who is a merchant there, and owner, among other vessels, of the ship "Fateh Karim," now lying on the shore at Malé in the Maldive Islands, a dependency of the Government of Ceylon, and within Your Excellency's high jurisdiction. His appeal to Your Excellency is occasioned by the unjust, illegal, and high-handed proceedings of the responsible authorities of the Maldives in regard of the captain and crew (seven in number) of that ship; and his prayer is that it may please Your Excellency to cause inquiry to be made into the unlawful detention of the said captain and crew by the said authorities, and to cause them to be released from their condition of torment and peril—a condition which petitioner learns they have been in for the last four or five months.

3. The story of their fate is briefly this. In November last the ship "Fateh Karim" was chartered at Karachchi by one Mohamed Hassan Effendi, through a freight broker named Futechund Tajanmal, for the purpose of carrying cargo and passengers thence to the Maldive Islands by way of Bombay. On or about the 22nd of that month the ship sailed for Bombay under the direction of the said Mohamed Hassan Effendi, and arrived there on November 27. The call at Bombay was represented by the charterer Mohamed Hassan Effendi to be for the purpose of taking in there some dredging machinery which was destined for the Maldives. On the ship reaching the port of Bombay, however, it was given out by the charterer—petitioner believes from subsequent events that the statement was a mere pretence and was intended as a cover against suspicion—that the machines had already been forwarded by another ship, and that therefore there was no need to stay long at Bombay. Accordingly, after a three days' stay, the ship set out direct for the Maldives, which it reached on or about December 15 last.

4. Here began the tragedy which has driven the petitioner to urge this earnest representation. Soon as the vessel arrived at Malé it was seized by order of the Prime Minister, and the charterer (the aforesaid Mohamed Hassan Effendi) and the captain and crew and passengers were made prisoners, put in irons, and sent to a distant and deadly atoll, where they have for the last five months been receiving the extreme of cruel and inhuman usage.

5. With the charterer and his intimates the petitioner is not here concerned. It may be, as he has heard alleged, that they were meditating some mischief in the Maldives with some of the authorities, in which he has since learned the charterer is unfriendly. But what he is anxious to impress upon Your Excellency is that the captain and the crew were entirely innocent of any mischievous design, if any such design had secretly existed in the mind of the charterer of the vessel or of those who were in the confidence of the charterer. Petitioner's father is the owner of eighteen vessels, which he lets out for the purposes of legitimate business and trade to go to the Maldives or elsewhere. His father is a man of standing and repute, a British subject, and in no way disaffected towards the Government of the Maldives. All his concern was to let the "Fateh Karim" out upon the best terms for lawful purposes of trade. The copy of the charter-party entered into between his father and the charterer Mohamed Hassan Effendi, which he takes leave to append to this petition, will testify to this. He could not inquire into the inner motives or machinations of those who hired his vessels, and in this instance there was nothing to rouse his suspicions. So far as he was concerned it was purely a business transaction.

6. Even more innocent of any evil intention or knowledge were the unfortunate captain and crew. These, too, are British subjects. They but did their duty in conducting the voyage upon which they, in the course of their ordinary work, were made to proceed. They took not the least part nor lot in any designs of the charterer; they were not aware of any such designs being entertained by him; they had scarce any personal acquaintance with him. And yet, innocent and unsuspecting as they were, they are

deemed partners in the guilt, or supposed guilt, of the charterer, are consigned to a deadly prison, and receive the most barbarous treatment. Petitioner learns that they are kept in fetters, are ill-fed, are exposed to brutal outrages, have been in this condition for five months, and see no prospect of the termination of their cruel treatment. Some of the unhappy crew, he is credibly informed, are in a critical state as regards their health; three of the passengers have already died; the captain is reported to be dying; and all certainly are in a piteous condition of suffering and danger.

7. While the lives of the captain and crew are thus put in imminent peril, the ship has been shorn of its masts and sails and steering gear and tackle, and lies exposed to the weather on the shore to which it has been dragged. The loss thus caused to petitioner's father is heavy. But it is not that loss that brings him to Your Excellency so much as the high-handed outrage that has been perpetrated, and the unjust and inhuman conduct of the Prime Minister and of those acting upon his orders. The captain gave a frank and truthful account of all the part that he and the crew took in the matter of the voyage, and the Prime Minister, who understands Hindustani (the captain's language) thoroughly, learned the true account from the captain's lips. Yet he detains the innocent captain and crew in captivity, and has neither relaxed a jot of his ill-usage of them, nor dealt with them according to law, nor made the slightest indication as to when this ill-treatment is to end.

8. The petitioner has been informed that, with the zeal for justice which marks Your Excellency's Government, Your Excellency, upon the receipt of some intelligence as to what had happened, caused inquiry to be made into the matter at Karachchi, and that the result of that inquiry is in the course of report to Your Excellency. For this prompt act of humanity the petitioner hastens, as becomes him, to tender his humble thanks to Your Excellency. But seeing the time that reports and inquiries must necessarily extend over, and being well aware of the arts of delay and evasion common in the Maldives, and feeling deeply the need for immediate action if the captain and his men are to be saved, petitioner begs that Your Excellency will allow this humble representation.

In this situation of extreme urgency the petitioner prays that it may please Your Excellency graciously to take order for the cessation of the ill-treatment of these innocent sufferers by causing them to be brought to Ceylon for the purpose of an investigation into their wrongs, or by causing a man-of-war to proceed to the Maldives for the purpose of a full and impartial inquiry there, or by such other means as may commend itself to Your Excellency's wisdom and discretion. And in case a man-of-war proceeds to the rescue of these unfortunate prisoners, petitioner will take it as a further favour at Your Excellency's hands if it shall please Your Excellency to permit him to go therein, so that his presence might afford some comfort to the unhappy victims by the proof it will give that he has not forgotten them nor been unmindful of their interests.

And for this justice and humanity the petitioner will ever pray.

June 3, 1910. HAJEE MAHOMED HAJEE USOOF.

Copy of Charter-party referred to.

Boat "Fateh Karim"; Tindal, Hassan.

THIS agreement is entered into between Haji Yousaff Khamissa, the owner of the above boat, and Mohamed Hassan Effendi Maldivewala, the owner of the goods; that—

The said Mohamed Hassan Effendi should take the goods in the boat from Karachchi and start for Bombay, where he may unload and re-load it, and then should sail for the Maldives, and from Maldives it should sail for Calicut.

The boat charges of the port and such other expenses at Maldives should be paid by the owner of goods Mohamed Hassan Effendi.

The freight charge for the above is agreed to be Rs. 1,200 in all.

The first payment of Rs. 300 be made at Karachchi; the second payment of Rs. 300 be paid at Bombay; the balance, total Rs. 600, to be paid in two instalments, the first of Rs. 400 to be paid at the Maldives, and the final balance of Rs. 200 be given at Calicut, provided that the owner loads no cargo for Calicut; he should relieve the ship paying Rs. 600 in full from Maldives of the last balance.

Both these parties have signed this agreement with all their full sense and ability and made through Messrs. Futechund Tajanmal & Co., Brokers; the brokerage, Rs. 15, to be paid by Mohamed Hassan Effendi and Rs. ——— to be paid by Haji Yousaff Khamissa.

Karachchi, November 8, 1909. MOHAMED HASSAN EFFENDI. HAJI YOUSAFF KHAMISSA.

No. 207.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Maldivian Government Representative, Colombo.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, June 14, 1910.

SIR,—ADVERTING to my letter to you of the 16th ultimo,* I am directed to inform you that a petition has since been received regarding the vessel "Fateh Karim" and its captain and crew, alleged to have been concerned in the expedition.

2. The petitioner, one Hajee Usoof, of Karachchi in India (who says he is the son and attorney of the owner of the vessel), states (1) that at the time the vessel was chartered by Mohamed Didi it was said to be for purely trade purposes; (2) that neither owner, captain, nor crew (all of them British subjects) had any suspicions whatever of the charterer's ulterior designs; and (3) that the captain and crew merely conducted the voyage, but did not take any part in any designs against the Maldives.

* See No. 205.

3. The petitioner states further that though the above state of their case was fully explained to the authorities at Malé, the captain and crew are detained as prisoners and subjected to hardship and ill-treatment.

4. I am to inquire whether there is any reason why the ship and its officers and crew should not be released, if as alleged they are being detained, and whether there is any foundation for the allegations made by the petitioner.

A. R. SLATER.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 208.

The Maldivian Government Representative, Colombo, to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Kollupitiya, June 19, 1910.

SIR,—IN reply to your letter of 16th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that by the latest communication I received from the Maldivian Government, I am informed that out of the 32 Indians (and not 23 as stated in the enclosure) one has since died, and the rest are kept in proper and safe custody and are well cared for, pending the final decision of the Ceylon Government as regards their removal.

2. Regarding the complaint referred to in your letter of 14th instant *re* the "Fateh Karim," its captain, and crew, I beg to state that according to Maldivian law and customs the vessel engaged in an expedition against the Government is always confiscated; the men are being detained pending as in above case.

3. As to the alleged ill-treatment, I have the honour to inform you that it is a gross exaggeration on the part of the petitioner; the captain and the crew are not kept in prison, but are well cared for, and have liberty to move about in the island to which they have been sent.

E. A. HAMID DIDI.
Maldivian Government Representative.

No. 209.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Maldivian Government Representative, Colombo.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, July 1, 1910.

SIR.—WITH reference to your letter of the 19th July, paragraph 1, I am directed to remind you that in February last the Ceylon Government suggested to the Maldivian Government that the prisoners in question should be sent to India and that full details should be reported to the Indian Government, and to state that in these circumstances your statement that His Highness the Sultan is awaiting instructions from the Ceylon Government as to the disposal of the prisoners is not understood.

2. His Excellency the Governor will be glad to know what steps the Maldivian Government has taken on the suggestion of the Ceylon Government.

E. B. DENHAM.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 210.

The Maldivian Government Representative, Colombo, to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Kollupitiya, July 5, 1910.

SIR.—IN reply to your letter of 1st instant, I have the honour to explain as follows:—

(1) The suggestions of the Ceylon Government for the transport of the Indian prisoners were made in February last.

(2) In March I received instructions from the Maldivian Government to interview the Hon. the Colonial Secretary on the subject as to the way of sending them to India, whether direct from Malé in buggalows or *viâ* Colombo in steamers.

(3) According to above instructions, on April 4 and 5 last I had an interview with Sir Hugh Clifford, who advised me to wait a few days, when a reply is expected from the Indian Government. He further told me that on the receipt of that reply I shall be informed of it and further advised.

(4) Copies of the replies of the Indian Government were furnished to me as promised with your letter of May 16 last.

(5) According to above letters of the Indian Government the descriptions of the prisoners in question, &c., were to be furnished in order to enable it to take action on the matter.

(6) Considering this will involve another long delay, and further considering the unsatisfactory state of the health of the prisoners owing to changes of climate, I suggested to the Maldivian Government to no more delay transport of the prisoners to India.

I understand that arrangements for the purpose are being made by the Maldivian Government, which had all the while been too anxious to get rid of them, as they entail heavy expenses of maintenance.

In conclusion, I beg that you will be so good as to grant me at an early date an interview to explain matters fully.

E. A. HAMID DIDI,
Maldivian Government Representative.

No. 211.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Maldivian Government Representative, Colombo.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, July 12, 1910.

SIR,—In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of July 5, regarding the Indian prisoners captured while engaged in a marauding expedition to the Maldives, I am directed to inform you that in the opinion of this Government the Maldivian authorities should send back the prisoners to India as soon as possible.

2. I am to add that there appears to be no necessity for an interview on the subject.

E. B. DENHAM,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 212.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, to the Hon. the Chief Secretary to the Government of Punjab.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, July 12, 1910.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter No. 180 (Pol.) of May 2 last, regarding the Indian prisoners captured by the Maldivian Government while engaged in a marauding expedition to the Maldives, I am directed to inform you that a copy of your letter was duly forwarded to the Maldivian authorities, and that it is understood that they are making arrangements to transport the prisoners to India.

2. I am to add that it has been impressed on the Maldivian authorities that the prisoners should be sent back to India as soon as possible.

E. B. DENHAM,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 213.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay (Political Department).

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, July 12, 1910.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter No. 2,760 of May 4 last, regarding the Indian prisoners captured by the Maldivian Government while engaged in a marauding expedition to the Maldives, I am directed to inform you that paragraph 1 of your letter was duly communicated to the Maldivian authorities, and that it is understood that they are making arrangements to transport the prisoners to India.

2. I am to add that it has been impressed on the Maldivian authorities that the prisoners should be sent back to India as soon as possible.

E. B. DENHAM,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 214.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, to the Secretary to the Government of India (Home Department).

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, July 12, 1910.

SIR,—WITH reference to my letter No. 863 of February 14, 1910, regarding the marauding expedition against the dominions of His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives carried out by alleged partisans of the ex-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din with the assistance of a number of natives of India, I am directed to inform you that letters were received from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay and from the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab asking for particulars of the natives of India who were taken as prisoners by the Maldivian Government.

2. These letters were duly communicated to the Maldivian authorities, and it is understood that they are making arrangements to transport the prisoners to India.

3. I am to add that it has been impressed on the Maldivian authorities that the prisoners should be sent back to India as soon as possible.

E. B. DENHAM,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 215.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to Hajee Mahomed Hajee Usoof, of Karachchi.

No. 995.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, July 15, 1910.

HIS Excellency the Governor having taken into consideration the petition of Hajee Mahomed Hajee Usoof, of Karachchi, now in 41, Alavia Buildings, Prince street, Pettah, Colombo, dated June 3, 1910, *re* the detention by the Maldivian Government of the captain and crew of the ship "Fateh Karim," has directed that the petitioner be informed that the Maldivian authorities are making arrangements to transport the prisoners to India, and that the matter is one for the Government of India to deal with.

M. A. YOUNG,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 216.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY Your Excellency prosper evermore!

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of February 12 last, and to inform you that we have learnt the contents thereof.

2. Aware of the unprotected state of our defences, Mohammed Didi and other Maldivian partisans of the *ex*-Sultan Imad-ud-din organized the above armed expedition with the help of some Indians. From their own confessions we are now convinced that the object the *ex*-Sultan's partisans had in coming to our shores was really to capture our dominions. We thank God that with all our weakness we were able to overcome their designs.

3. In our letter of 13th Thulkadji last we applied for your instructions as to the means of transportation of the Indian prisoners to Ceylon, because we were unwilling to punish them according to our laws, they being British Indian subjects. But you have informed us that you cannot interfere in the matter, as the expedition in question took place within Maldivian territories.

4. As we are unwilling to punish these Indian Pathans brought over by Mohammed Didi and party according to our laws, we have pardoned them all. They have been hitherto kept in safe custody and treated well in the isle of Dunidu, a mile distant from Malé. But according to God's will—which who can evade—two of the captives, Noorkhan and Karan Meer, met with their deaths, the one of dysentery and the other of fever.

5. The nearest Indian port which could be safely reached during this part of the year is Tuticorin, and we have issued instructions to equip one of our vessels to transport them (the Indian prisoners) to Tuticorin with the least possible delay. We hope that with the help of God they will soon reach their country.

6. Our representative in Colombo will furnish your Government with ample details regarding these matters.

Palace, Malé, 11th Rajabu, 1328.
(July 11, 1910.)

No. 217.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY Your Excellency prosper evermore!

WE have the honour to inform Your Excellency that we have had to postpone the repatriation of Naguda Asan Gul Muhamadu and crew of the vessel "Fatch Karim" belonging to Hajee Useof, of Karachchi, until the inquiry into the case of the above expedition led by our enemies Mohammed Didi and other partisans of *ex*-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din had been concluded.

2. The inquiry has proved to our satisfaction that the captain and crew of the above vessel in which the expedition was made have not been in any way privy to our enemies' designs, but that on the contrary they knew nothing of them until they reached our shores.

3. We have therefore pardoned the men, and they are now at liberty to depart in their vessel whithersoever they choose.

Malé Palace, 11th Rajabu, 1328.
(July 19, 1910.)

No. 218.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, to the Under Secretary to the Government of Punjab.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, July 25, 1910.

SIR,—IN reply to your letter No. 241 (Pol.) dated July 16, inviting attention to your letter of May 2 last, No. 180, on the subject of the marauding expedition against the dominions of His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives, I am directed to refer you to my letter dated July 12, addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, regarding the disposal of the Indian prisoners captured by the Maldivian Government.

E. B. DENHAM,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 219.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Inspector-General of Police.

No. 357.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, August 3, 1910.

SIR,—WITH reference to your letter No. 174 of March 23, 1910,* reporting a marauding expedition to the Maldives perpetrated by partisans of the *ex*-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din with the assistance of a number of natives of India, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has received intimation from the Sultan of the Maldives that the captain and crew of the vessel concerned in the expedition have been pardoned and released, and that the Indian Pathans have also been pardoned, and that the Maldivian Government will shortly repatriate them *viâ* Tuticorin. Two of the latter died in captivity, named Noorkhan and Karan Meer.

* See No. 204.

2. Inquiries made from the Maldivian representative here have elicited the further information that the Pathans are leaving Malé on August 3 in the schooner "Mary," that they will be sent as ordinary passengers, and will be provided by the Maldivian Government with the expenses of their journey from Tuticorin to their homes. The names of the men are not known, except that the leader is called Jamadar Khamsab.

3. This information is being conveyed by wire to the Indian Governments who have written on the subject.

A. R. SLATER.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 220.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, to the Under Secretary to the Government of Punjab.

Colonial Secretary's Office.
Colombo, August 4, 1910.

SIR,—ADVERTING to my letter dated July 25, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to forward, for the information of your Government, the accompanying copy of a letter received from His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives,* intimating that the natives of India who took part in the marauding expedition against His Highness' dominions have been pardoned, and that the Maldivian Government will shortly repatriate them *viâ* Tuticorin.

2. It has been further ascertained from the Maldivian representative in this Island that the men were to leave Malé on August 3 in the schooner "Mary." They will, it is understood, be sent as passengers, and will be provided with the expenses of their journey from Tuticorin to their homes. The names of the men, except that of the leader, who is called Jamadar Khamsab, are not known.

3. The following telegram was despatched to your address on August 3 :—

"My letter dated July 12 last, Sultan Maldives has reported free pardon to prisoners, repatriating them *viâ* Tuticorin by schooner "Mary" leaving Malé to-day—names and descriptions of prisoners not available."

A. R. SLATER.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 221.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, to the Secretary to the Government of India (Home Department).

Colonial Secretary's Office.
Colombo, August 4, 1910.

SIR,—IN continuation of my letter dated July 12, 1910, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to forward to you herewith a copy of a letter received from the Sultan of the Maldives,* intimating that the natives of India who took part in the marauding expedition against His Highness' dominions have been pardoned, and that the Maldivian Government will shortly repatriate them *viâ* Tuticorin.

2. It has been further ascertained from the Maldivian representative in this Island that the men were to leave Malé on August 3 in the schooner "Mary." They will, it is understood, be sent as passengers, and will be provided with the expenses of their journey from Tuticorin to their homes. The names of the men, except that of the leader, who is called Jamadar Khamsab, are not known.

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A. R. SLATER.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 222.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay (Political Department).

Colonial Secretary's Office.
Colombo, August 4, 1910.

SIR,—IN continuation of my letter dated July 12, 1910, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to forward herewith a copy of a letter received from the Sultan of the Maldives,* intimating that the natives of India who took part in the marauding expedition against His Highness' dominions have been pardoned, and that the Maldivian Government will shortly repatriate them *viâ* Tuticorin.

2. It has been further ascertained from the Maldivian representative in this Island that the men were to leave Malé on August 3 in the schooner "Mary." They will, it is understood, be sent as passengers, and will be provided with the expenses of their journey from Tuticorin to their homes. The names of the men, except that of the leader, who is called Jamadar Khamsab, are not known.

3. The following telegram was despatched to your address on August 3 :—

"My letter dated July 12 last, Sultan Maldives has reported free pardon to prisoners, repatriating them *viâ* Tuticorin by schooner "Mary" leaving Malé to-day—names and descriptions of prisoners not available."

A. R. SLATER.
for Colonial Secretary.

* See No. 216.

No. 223.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to Hajee Mahomed Hajee Usoof, of Karachchi.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, August 4, 1910.

WITH reference to the letter addressed to him from this office, dated July 15, 1910, Hajee Mahomed Hajee Usoof, of Karachchi, now residing in 41, Alavia Buildings, Prince street, Pettah, Colombo, is informed that intimation has been received from His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives that the captain and crew of the ship "Fateh Karim" have been pardoned and released by the Maldivian Government. They are now at liberty to depart in their vessel whithersoever they choose.

A. R. SLATER,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 224.

The Maldivian Government Representative, Colombo, to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Kollupitiya, August 12, 1910.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to report that the 29 Indian British subjects were taken from Malé to Tuticorin in the schooner "Mary" in charge of a Government officer, and were landed there on Monday, August 8 last. My agent at Tuticorin bought railway tickets for them to take them as far as Bombay, and actually entrained them, handing to each of them his ticket and a sum of Rs. 3 for food expenses. However, before the train started, 21 of them got down and declined to avail themselves of the concession, and demanded three months' pay and railway fare as far as Peshawar, which lies much further north from Bombay.

2. The above information was sent to me by my agent at Tuticorin, who reports that the men are continuing to stay there, refusing to accept even railway fare to Peshawar and Rs. 6 a head as food expenses.

E. A. HAMID DIDI,
Maldivian Government Representative.

No. 225.

The Maldivian Government Representative, Colombo, to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Kollupitiya, August 12, 1910.

Captain and Crew of Vessel "Fateh Karim."

SIR,—REFERRING to the previous correspondence on the above subject, I have the honour to inform you that the captain and crew of the vessel "Fateh Karim," having represented to the Maldivian Government their inability to go to Karachchi in their vessel at this time of the year, applied to be sent to Colombo, from whence they said they will find their way to their country.

2. The Maldivian Government accordingly engaged the services of Messrs. E. G. Adamaly & Co.'s buggalow "Fateh Rahmani" and sent them to Colombo a few days ago. Their own vessel, "Fateh Karim," they left behind at Malé for safe keeping in charge of Messrs. E. G. Adamaly's agent, until such time as they could safely remove it to Karachchi.

3. On their arrival in Colombo I sent for the captain and informed him that I could send them to India at the expense of the Maldivian Government. The man has refused my offer, as I believe, on bad advice; and is still in Colombo with his crew.

E. A. HAMID DIDI,
Maldivian Government Representative.

No. 226.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, to the Under Secretary to the Government of Punjab.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, August 19, 1910.

SIR,—IN continuation of my letter dated August 4, with regard to the natives of India who took part in the marauding expedition to the Maldives, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to forward for the information of your Government copies of two letters* received from the Maldivian representative in this Island.

A. N. GALBRAITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 227.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Maldivian Representative, Colombo.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, August 19, 1910.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters dated August 12, regarding the natives of India who took part in the marauding expedition to the Maldives and the captain and crew of the vessel "Fateh Karim."

2. Copies of these letters are being sent to the Punjab Government.

A. N. GALBRAITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

* See Nos. 224 and 225.

Alleged attempt to be made in 1911 by ex-Sultan Imad-ud-din to regain the Sultanate.

No. 228.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Crewe, K.G.

Miscellaneous.—No. 483.

The Queen's House, Colombo,
Ceylon, August 11, 1910.

My Lord,—With reference to my despatch No. 652 of October 29, 1908,* reporting a visit to India by Muhammad Imad-ud-din, *ex*-Sultan of the Maldive Islands, with the suspected object of attempting to regain the Sultanate of those Islands, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter addressed by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bombay, to the Inspector-General of Police, Ceylon, reporting the arrival at Bombay of a Muhammadan called Abdul Rahman Aly, who states that he has been for a number of years with the *ex*-Sultan in Egypt, and that Imad-ud-din intends to leave that country in about a year's time with a view to making a further attempt to regain the Sultanate.

2. In view of the troubles which have occurred in the past in connection with the Maldive Archipelago, I would suggest, for Your Lordship's consideration, that it would be advisable if the Egyptian Police authorities were requested to watch the *ex*-Sultan, and in the event of his leaving Egypt for Bombay or elsewhere to inform the authorities there and this Government by telegraph.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

Enclosure in No. 228.

The Inspector-General of Police to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Confidential.

Colombo, July 23, 1910.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, copy of a letter from the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bombay, City Intelligence Branch, and to inquire whether it is desired that any action should be taken, and if so, what.

2. The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bombay, has in the meantime been asked to keep an eye on Abdul Rahman Aly.

IVOR E. DAVID.
Inspector-General of Police.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure in No. 228.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bombay, to the Inspector-General of Police, Ceylon.

Confidential.

Bombay, July 18, 1910.

Dear Sir,—A Muhammadan, whose card bears the following inscription: Abdul Rahman Aly. Cheikh Riwak of India in Azhar, arrived to-day in Bombay from Egypt per ss. "Vorwarts." He gives out that he has been for a number of years with the *ex*-Sultan of the Maldive Islands in Egypt, and that he also belongs to the Maldives.

2. On arrival he brought with him a piece of paper to Detective Inspector Favel's address, and said that the *ex*-Sultan of the Maldives had sent his compliments, with a request that Mr. Favel was not to forget to visit him should he happen to be in Egypt.

3. From conversation with Abdul Rahman it appears that the Sultan intends coming out in about a year's time with some Englishmen, one of whom is a leading English lawyer, with the object of getting back the Sultanship of the Maldive Islands.

4. Abdul Rahman is staying with an Arab named Abdulla-bin-Yusuff-al-Abdul Razak, residing at Old Kazi street, Bombay. He has a number of Arabic and Hindustani books with him, and gives out that he has some business with the Anjuman-i-Islam.

5. This is an advance copy of the report submitted to the Government of Bombay.

A. D. VINCENT,
for Commissioner of Police.

No. 229.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Inspector-General of Police.

Confidential.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, August 16, 1910.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your confidential letter of July 23, 1910, forwarding a copy of a letter received from the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bombay, City Intelligence Branch, with regard to a further attempt which the *ex*-Sultan of the Maldives, Muhammad Imad-ud-din, is believed to be about to make to regain the Sultanate.

* See No. 193.

(53)

2. In reply, I am to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has reported the information furnished by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bombay, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and suggested, for His Lordship's consideration, that it would be advisable that the Egyptian Police authorities should be requested to watch the *ex*-Sultan, and in the event of his leaving Egypt for Bombay or elsewhere should inform the authorities there and this Government by telegraph.

3. The Government of Bombay is being informed of the above action.

A. N. GALBRAITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 230.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Ceylon, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay (Political and Judicial Department).

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, August 17, 1910.

SIR,—WITH reference to the accompanying copy of a letter received by the Inspector-General of Police of this Colony from the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bombay, City Intelligence Branch, intimating the arrival at Bombay of a Muhammadan called Abdul Rahman Aly, who has asserted that the *ex*-Sultan of the Maldives, Muhammad Imad-ud-din, is about to make a further attempt to regain the Sultanate, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has reported the information furnished by the Bombay Police to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and suggested, for His Lordship's consideration, that it would be advisable that the Egyptian Police authorities should be requested to watch the *ex*-Sultan, and in the event of his leaving Egypt for Bombay or elsewhere should inform the Government of Bombay and this Government by telegraph.

A. N. GALBRAITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

Ex-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din's Letter to British Agent and Consul-General at Cairo (1910).

No. 231.

The British Agent and Consul-General at Cairo to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

British Agency,
Cairo, August 26, 1910.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith the enclosed correspondence which has been addressed to this Agency by Muhammad Imad-ud-din Iskandar, ex-Sultan of the Maldive Islands. I have instructed His Majesty's Consul in Cairo to inform the applicant that the matter is one of which I have no cognizance, and that the papers have been submitted to your consideration.

MILNE CHEETHAM.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 231.

The *Ex*-Sultan of the Maldives to the British Diplomatic Agent at Cairo.

Cairo, August 3, 1910.

SIR,—MAY I respectfully request the favour of an interview at your leisure any afternoon to confer with you upon some important private matters?

If you will condescend to grant me same, I would request your kind permission to bring with me Mr. A. Moscovakis, of the Vacuum Oil Company, who, being my friend, would act as interpreter in my case.

MUHAMMAD IMAD-UD-DIN ISKANDAR.
Ex-Sultan of the Maldives.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 231.

The *Ex*-Sultan of the Maldives to His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Cairo.

Cairo, August 19, 1910.

SIR,—WITH reference to my letter to His Excellency the British Diplomatic Agent, dated the 3rd instant, and the kind interview you have allowed me on the 15th, and in compliance with your request, I herewith beg to submit the detailed account of the unfortunate Maldivian Government, and especially my fate in it, for favour of His Britannic Majesty's Government's kind consideration and advice.

MUHAMMAD IMAD-UD-DIN ISKANDAR.
Ex-Sultan of the Maldives

Account referred to.

My grandfather, Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din Iskandar, reigned for fifty years most peacefully: he died thirty years ago leaving two sons and two daughters, one of the sons being my father, Hassan Izz-ud-din, and on account of his being blind the throne was passed to my uncle Ibrahim Nur-ud-din. Ibrahim Didi's father, an old Minister, had at that time left the Maldivian Islands for Colombo, where he tried to educate his son, Ibrahim El Didi, who acquired a good knowledge of English, Arabic, and Hindustani, and returned to Maldives and married the sister of the new Sultan. By this marriage he secured the post of Prime Minister and Treasurer. After a while Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din married the daughter of one of his Ministers (Hassan Didi). This Minister now became the intimate of the Sultan, and this intimacy raised the jealousy of Ibrahim Didi, who revolted against the Sultan to a point of insurrecting the capital and producing continuous trouble for about four years, which ended in his collecting a majority to his side, including the soldiers, and through his influence arranged to surround the palace with sufficient forces, exclaiming "Down with Hassan Didi," otherwise down with the Sultan. At this Hassan Didi decided to resign his post, and the Sultan informed the population that on account of ill-health he would rather have them choose a ruler for themselves, as he intended to retire for rest.

The people chose for their ruler the Sultan's nephew, *i.e.*, my brother, Muhammad Muin-ud-din Iskandar, and Ibrahim Didi remained as Prime Minister. This new reign lasted two years, in the course of which Ibrahim El Didi tried his best to persuade the Sultan to sell the yearly products of all the Maldivian Islands to Carimjee, an Indian merchant of Colombo. The Sultan always objected, declining to discuss an arrangement of this nature. El Didi, unable to realize his scheme, commenced creating scandals about and organized a revolt against the Sultan, who, on being informed of it, decided the deportation of El Didi to an island in exile, as well as all his followers, and named Mohammed El Didi Prime Minister.

The news got to Colombo somehow, and was reported as great trouble in the islands. The British despatched a man-of-war from Colombo to restore harmony; on the arrival of the man-of-war there was no one to interpret for the parties, as none there had acquired any knowledge of languages, except the already-exiled Ibrahim El Didi. The Captain happened to know Ibrahim El Didi, and not seeing him there inquired about him. He was brought back from exile, and this was a chance for him to relate

in the language unknown to any other of the natives whatever he saw to his advantage, as nobody was there to understand or contradict his statements. The officer commanding the man-of-war made the Sultan sign a declaration that he would allow no European to enter the place except British, and so left for Colombo.

Ibrahim El Didi returned now home with more influence than ever, his return having been ordered on the request of the officer commanding the man-of-war. This time he tried to renew friendship with his first master, Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din, with a view to throwing down Sultan Muhammad Muin-ud-din and restore the throne again to the former. His scheme worked well, and the ministers were made to secretly take the oath of loyalty to Nur-ud-din. Then an insurrection was again organized, and the news of agitation reached Colombo. A man-of-war was despatched on annual visit to Maldives.

This was an excellent opportunity for Ibrahim El Didi to play his *rôle*, and there being a Government house at the landing stage he instructed the Ministers to advise their Sultan Muin-ud-din to go and meet the officers as they landed. The Sultan agreed, and Ibrahim El Didi, profiting by the throne being vacant for the time, advised Nur-ud-din to step into the Sultanate house and occupy the throne, and that he would do the necessary with the officers and get them to visit him, when he will explain to them that His Highness Nur-ud-din's health being restored he resumed his duties.

This ail went on very satisfactorily, and Muin-ud-din returning from the landing stage was surprised at what took place, but unable to express to any in any language, and explain anything to the officers of the man-of-war. He was simply told by Ibrahim El Didi and Nur-ud-din (the Sultan) that this was the wish of the Commander, and that he had better not protest lest it turns bad for him. He consequently made his way home leaving the Sultanate to Nur-ud-din, but was so overtaken from the trick played him that he remained in his house for nearly one year, then died.

Nur-ud-din went on ruling the country for another four years with Ibrahim El Didi as Premier, then he died leaving two sons under age of three and thirteen years. By his death, according to the customs and usages, the throne was to come to me, but Ibrahim El Didi declared to the people that before dying Nur-ud-din left word that the throne was to be given to his younger son, and as this latter was only three years old, he would take charge of the Regency till the young Sultan becomes of age.

The people objected and formed two parties, the one wanting me to occupy the throne as being the person entitled by rights, and also the senior of the whole ruling family at that time. I was then twenty-six, but I was not inclined to accept, and in fact I utterly objected to it. The other party wanted the elder son of Nur-ud-din, *i.e.*, Sams-ud-din, who was then thirteen.

This raised great antagonism, and finally Sams-ud-din was proclaimed Sultan by his partisans, and occupied the throne for about eighteen months, during which time nothing but objections as to his age was talked of, as under the age of fifteen he could not be allowed to attend to State ceremonies or religious services. This state of things compelled Ibrahim El Didi to try and persuade my parents to induce me to accept the throne. I gave in, and was proclaimed Sultan, and had Ibrahim El Didi as my Premier for about seven years, until the time came that he suggested the selling of all the Maldivian yearly products to an Indian merchant, as he desired to do in the days of the previous Sultans. I rejected his scheme, and this made him tender his resignation, which I accepted and appointed another Premier, Mohammed El Didi.

When everything was quiet again I thought of visiting Mecca, and leaving the charge of the throne to the care of my brother, Tuttu Manipulu, whom the people welcomed with acclamation, and taking Ibrahim El Didi with me we proceeded to Colombo on my way to Hedjaz.

Arriving at Colombo I begged His Excellency the Governor to kindly avoid El Didi going to Maldives during my absence in Hedjaz.

After performing my pilgrimage I returned home and found everything going on satisfactorily, and this calm went on for nearly four years, when suddenly I felt that some revolt was prevailing, as my Ministers began to show me indifference, and I concluded that I had better leave for a change to Egypt, appointing my eldest brother, Dori Manipulu, as Regent during my absence.

This was in 1903, but soon after my arrival in Egypt Ibrahim El Didi, then at Colombo, began his intrigues, and, profiting by my absence, organized through his brother and son at Malé an insurrection, inducing the natives to proclaim Sams-ud-din Sultan of Maldives.

Ibrahim El Didi succeeded nicely, and I in Suez received the news that Sams-ud-din occupied the throne, as also that Ibrahim El Didi had returned to Malé, but His Excellency the Governor of Colombo having received information of the appointment of Sams-ud-din disapproved of the action: in fact, I received a wire from His Excellency the Governor of Colombo calling my return to Colombo.

I hurried to Colombo, and His Excellency asked me to go to Malé and take over the ruling of the country; His Excellency having decided to send a man-of-war with the Lieutenant-Governor on board to Malé to investigate the case and find out who the people want for their ruler, and if I was chosen he would restore my position.

We all went, but on the news reaching Malé El Didi made his arrangements and influenced the population to call out for Sams-ud-din, and so it happened, with the consequence that we had to draw back and return to Colombo, and the event was reported to His Excellency the Governor.

His Excellency the Governor of Colombo, having given the case due consideration, resolved that before approving the appointment of Sams-ud-din he would see that the Maldivian Government allows me a sufficient pension to live on in Egypt, and His Excellency suggested Rs. 30 per diem, to be paid yearly by the Maldivian Government, remitted to the British authorities in Colombo, and paid me monthly through Cook's offices in Egypt. The Maldivian Government found the amount somewhat heavy, and finally Rs. 25 were accepted, and these are regularly paid me monthly till this day.

This event made El Didi again occupy the post of Premier, and to revenge himself for my having kept him away all that time, he gave strict orders to censure any correspondence that my family might have with me, and a little later stopped all communication between me and my family, and I could only get indirect news of my family from persons evading their exiles.

El Didi, not yet satisfied with all this, and fearing the consequences, thought that it was wise to imprison my people, each in his own house, depriving them of anything they may need, yet this did not satisfy his grudge, and he ordered my mother to exile, and while she was on the boat on the way to the island of her exile he sent men to take away from her any jewellery or money she had with her, even the belt which she wore containing some money, and left her deprived of all means of sustenance, penniless,

and helpless. He did the same to my wife and children, and has deprived them of all they had in the house, taking even the gold bracelets and other ornaments from the hands or necks of my little daughters.

He then suspected my brother, who, having a separate house for his wife and brothers-in-law, could probably communicate with me through their medium, and he therefore ordered my brother's wife and her three brothers to exile.

It happened that lately one of the brothers found his way to Colombo, and having related to some friends all that was going on in Maldives, he was advised to take some thirty strong and armed men and go to Malé to protest, but El Didi learning of their being *en route* sent out a force with guns, &c., to declare war against them. The brother, fearing the worst, showed the white flag, and the Malé people came to them and bound every one of the thirty with ropes, and upon the brother resisting he was killed by forcing poison into his mouth while he was held.

This is only part of the barbarous atrocities done to my people by this tyrant, who by simply pretending it to be England's wish keeps on destroying the family entitled to the throne to reserve it for himself.

This account of the Maldivian history is the first ever explained in detail and accuracy to any person in the world. I am indebted to my friend Mr. A. Moscovakis for being able to submit an account of all the troubles that my country has suffered for the last thirty years, and is still suffering from the barbarous and selfish Ibrahim El Didi.

Would not the British Government kindly help me to at least get my family out of the clutches of this barbarous and inhuman person, and see that a sufficient pension is allowed them by the Maldivian Treasury to maintain their living in Egypt ?

MUHAMMAD IMAD-UD-DIN ISKANDAR.
Ex-Sultan of the Maldives.

Cairo, August 19, 1910.

No. 232.

His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon to His Britannic Majesty's Agent and Consul-General, Cairo.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, September 17, 1910.

SIR,—In acknowledging the receipt of your letter dated August 26, 1910, forwarding copies of letters received from Muhammad Imad-ud-din, *ex*-Sultan of the Maldives, with regard to the treatment meted out to him and his family by the Maldivian Government, I have the honour to forward for your information the accompanying print of correspondence relating to the Maldive Islands.*

2. I would invite special attention to Sir West Ridgeway's letter to the *ex*-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din, dated July 27, 1903, printed as document No. 88 on page 93.

HENRY McCALLUM.

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* Papers relating to the Maldive Islands, Part I.

For Official use only.

PAPERS

RELATING TO

THE MALDIVE ISLANDS.

PART III.

(MISCELLANEOUS, 1904–1910.)

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Secretariat, Colombo,
September 21, 1910.

PAPERS RELATING TO THE MALDIVE ISLANDS, 1904-1910.

PART III.

Appointment of a Maldivian Representative for Colombo.

No. 233.*

Memorial of A. C. A. Latif, of 93, Silversmith street, Colombo, to His Excellency the Governor.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.—THAT the humble memorialist, with due respect and submission, approach Your Excellency with a humble request as regards an urgent necessity for all who are interested or connected in matters Maldivian, as great many inconveniences and troubles are being caused for want of having a proper agency for all Maldivians to watch their public interests in this Island as was done in the past.

2. That from time immemorial, and before the Maldivian Government had become a Tributary State to Ceylon, there existed an important custom of having three responsible individuals holding honorary offices to watch and protect the public interests of the Maldivians in Ceylon, viz. :—

(a) The Maldivian Government agent in Ceylon, the first and most important of the offices.
(b) A Maldivian interpreter to the Ceylon Government appointed by the Ceylon Government.
(c) A Maldivian interpreter to the Maldivian Government.

The latter two office-holders did their respective duties as occasion had arisen, and if any wrongs happened to the Maldivians, they usually reported or represented the matters to the said agent for redress and support.

3. That the office of agency existed at the time the Maldivian Government became a Tributary State to Ceylon, and continued in force until the time of the death of Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din in 1892, and the office-holder at that time was a famous philanthropist by name Ismail Lebbe Marcar Cassim Lebbe Marcar (Bawa), a respectable gentleman of an aristocratic Moorish family of Galle, and the father of that honourable gentleman Mr. Cassim Lebbe Marcar Mohamed Ismail, generally known as Mr. C. M. Ismail, who, like his father, a person highly regarded by the Ceylonese and respected by all the Maldivians of the highest and lowest degrees.

As matters stood at that time (*i.e.*, 1887 or 1883), although the British Government thought it necessary that the Ruler of the Maldivians should be one recognized by the British Government, still the Ceylon Government neglected or omitted to recognize the said agent as well in Ceylon just at that time; but the public, as was customary, recognized him as such, and the said agent also died about the year 1892.

But owing to the troubles due to misrepresentations about the rights of persons for the Sultanate, so also matters have been misrepresented to the Ceylon Government about the office of agency, and later on a Bombay merchant by name Carimjee Jafferjee was appointed or recognized by the Ceylon Government as Maldivian Government agent in Ceylon, to watch the public interests of all the Maldivians in this Island, and the cancellation of his office is a matter of record. Since then no proper agent seems to have been appointed in Ceylon by the Ceylon Government, and thereby the inconveniences are great in degree.

4. That Your Excellency's memorialist further submits that for want of a just and proper agent the Maldivians have been implicated in two or three criminal cases in Colombo and suffered in a civil suit in Galle within the last two years, owing to the feuds and jealousies of the so-called interpreters and mismanagement of their adherents, and the ignorance of the Maldivians is their chance of making them preys to their respective friends, the Bombay merchants, in addition to other troubles.

5. That the memorialist humbly begs of Your Excellency to regulate all matters connected with the poor Maldivians on a proper basis, without any unnecessary grievances happening to them in Ceylon in future by the so-called interpreters or others, by duly appointing an able and well-versed gentleman who knows about them and their affairs, and one who would do justice to them as their agent to watch their public interests in Ceylon.

6. That the memorialist begs to submit for Your Excellency's approval a gentleman in the person of Mr. Cassim Lebbe Marcar Mohamed Ismail *alias* Mr. C. M. Ismail, who is the eldest son of the late agent (mentioned in paragraph 3), highly respected by all the Maldivians and well versed in their affairs, and the fittest person for that honorary post in education, wealth, ability, and family connection.

7. Therefore, the memorialist craves the assistance of Your Excellency to take into merciful consideration the facts adduced, and to appoint such a gentleman to the existing vacant post, as the power of selection and nomination lies at Your Excellency's hand, like appointing a member to represent a community in Ceylon in the Legislative Council, or like nominating a Consul or Acting Consul for a foreign power when such a power neglected to fill up a vacant office.

For which act of favour and merciful consideration the memorialist, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

Colombo, August 12, 1904. A. C. A. LATIF.

* The numbers are in continuation of those in Part II.

No. 234.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to A. C. A. Latif, 93, Silversmith street, Colombo.

Colonial Secretary's Office.
Colombo, August 27, 1904.

SIR,—I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of August 12, forwarding a memorial to His Excellency the Governor, on behalf of yourself and others interested in Maldivian affairs, praying for the appointment of an agent for the Maldive Islands.

2. In reply, I am to state that it is for His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives to appoint his own agent in Ceylon if he thinks one necessary.

J. J. THORBURN,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 235.

A. C. A. Latif to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

93, Silversmith street.
Colombo, November 22, 1904.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to invite your kind attention to my memorial dated August 12 last addressed to His Excellency the Governor, and also to my letter of the same date addressed to your respected predecessor, *re* the urgent necessity of having in Ceylon a permanent and fit representative to the Maldivian Government to protect their public interests in Ceylon, and to render the Maldivians the necessary timely assistance as was done in the past to the great satisfaction of all concerned.

2. I beg of Your Honour to remind His Excellency the Governor to consult with His Highness' Ambassador the advisability of filling that vacant office by a duly recognized person by both Governments, as such an act on the part of His Excellency and Your Honour if given effect will be a blessing to the Maldivians and also for all interested in matters Maldivian.

3. A reference to the afore-mentioned memorial will reveal to Your Honour the required information.

A. C. A. LATIF.

No. 236.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to A. C. A. Latif, 93, Silversmith street, Colombo.

Colonial Secretary's Office.
Colombo, November 28, 1904.

SIR,—I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of November 22, inviting attention to your memorial to His Excellency the Governor praying for the appointment of an agent for the Maldive Islands in Ceylon.

2. In reply, I am to refer you to the letter addressed to you from this office on August 27 last, and to state that the Ceylon Government declines to move in the matter.

A. R. SLATER,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 237.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives,
to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY Your Excellency prosper evermore!

WE beg to inform Your Excellency that, for the conducting of all matters required for us we have appointed Ameer Abdul Hamid Didi to be representative of our Government in Colombo. We request that Your Honourable Government will be pleased to recognize the appointment.

Palace, Malé, 11th Rabiuttani, 1326.
(May 13, 1908.)

M. SAMS-UD-DIN.

No. 238.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's House.
Colombo, June 11, 1908.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 11th Rabiuttani, 1326, corresponding to May 13, 1908, of the Christian era, intimating that you have appointed Ameer Abdul Hamid Didi as the representative of your Government in Colombo for the purpose of conducting locally matters relating to the Maldives.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

No. 239.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

Miscellaneous.—No. 371.

The Queen's House, Colombo,
Ceylon, June 16, 1908.

MY LORD,—I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for Your Lordship's information, a copy of a letter* from His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives informing me that he has appointed Ameer Abdul Hamid Didi as representative of the Government of the Maldives in Colombo, and asking me to recognize him as such, together with a copy of my reply* thereto, merely acknowledging the receipt of the letter and taking note of its contents.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

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* See Nos. 237 and 238.

Maldivian Interpreter.

No. 240.

Extract from a Letter to the Sultan of the Maldives, dated October 27, 1904.

"5. In this connection I have to bring to your notice that Mr. N. M. Abdul Careem, of whose appointment as Maldivian Interpreter to your Government you informed me by your letter of December 28, 1903, requested that the shipwrecked Maldivians might be handed over to him, and that the arrangements for repatriating them should be left in his charge. I saw no reason to depart from the usual procedure of entrusting the care of shipwrecked persons to the Maldivian Interpreter to this Government, and I caused Mr. Abdul Careem to be informed of my decision, assuring him that he would be absolved of responsibility in the matter. I shall, however, be glad to know what course Your Highness wishes pursued in future."

No. 241.

Extract from a Letter from the Sultan of the Maldives, dated March 18, 1905.

"And we beg to inform, in reply to the 5th paragraph, that I do not wish that any of our subjects who is shipwrecked in your waters should be entrusted to the Maldivian Interpreter to Ceylon Government, but, on the contrary, I desire that they should be taken care of and helped by the Ceylon Government till they are sent back, as the old practice: and also we are not satisfied with the present interpreter S. L. M. H. H. M. L. Marikar, for he has shown his animosity to me openly and in secret, for he is one of the closest and favourite friend of Imad-ud-din, who has been deposed, and sides him completely, and he also tries as much as possible to create a row between us and his brothers and people.

"A letter which the said interpreter sent to the brothers of Imad-ud-din in order to prejudice their minds and create discontent with lies has fallen into our hands. In it they were advised to create disturbance in the country and to cause a revolution among the people as much as possible, so that there may be a great disturbance, and that he would help them before the Ceylon Government, and that his voice is heard with approbation by the Government of Ceylon, that he would be consulted by the Government of Ceylon regarding every important matter touching the Maldive Government.

"I was informed by some of the subjects, who had been to Colombo during last November on their annual journey, that the aforesaid interpreter advised them to give a petition as if it came from all the subjects, complaining against us with oppression and tyranny, as if they were not content with me to be their Sultan, and that they would like to have Imad-ud-din, who was deposed, and many other complaints which it is not necessary to be set down here at length. However, we hope that the Government of Ceylon will not suffer that interpreter to intrude in matters between your Government, whatever it might be, for there is no doubt that he would lead us into danger from which it would be difficult to extricate."

No. 242.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's Cottage,
Nuwara Eliya, May 12, 1905.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—IN continuation of my letter of April 17 last,* regarding the repatriation of shipwrecked Maldivians, I have the honour to inform Your Highness that I do not think that there is any necessity for the services of Mr. S. L. M. Habibu Marikar to be requisitioned in future in connection with the repatriation of Maldivian subjects who are in distress in this Colony, and I have directed that Mr. Habibu Marikar's services in this respect, as well as in that of interpreter to the Ceylon Government, should not be utilized in future.

2. Shipwrecked Maldivians will be entrusted to the care of Mr. Abdul Careem, Interpreter to Your Highness' Government, until such time as arrangements can be made to send them back to the Maldivian Islands.

3. I trust Your Highness is in the enjoyment of good health, and that your dominions continue to prosper under your administration.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE.

No. 243.

Minutes relating to the Appointment of a Maldivian Interpreter.

By His Excellency the Governor.—The remarks of Judge Dias† show that Abdul Careem is a person of bad character. If we can find another interpreter, his services should be dispensed with in future.—H. A. B. 21-1-06.

By His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.—I have spoken to the Ambassador, who will confer with Mr. Pagden on a successor who will meet the views of this Government and of the Sultan's Government.—A. M. A. 27-1-06.

* See No. 248.

† See Enclosure No. 3 in No. 138 in Part II.

By Mr. Payden.—The Maldivian Ambassador came to-day.

2. He recommends Abdul Rahman Alim Sahib of Old Moor street, who, he states, knows Arabic Hindustani, and Tamil, and can translate the Sultan's letters into Tamil and *vice versâ*.

3. He can also interpret between Hindustani and Tamil and between Maldivian and Tamil.

4. He has been to the Maldives, and was formerly legal adviser to the Maldivian Government.

5. Under this arrangement, if carried out, the Tamil Mudaliyar of this office would do the translations from Tamil into English and *vice versâ*, and avoid sending the letters to Hatton, as is done at present. This, he understands, was the former system.

6. The Ambassador, however, states that he has not the Sultan's instructions on the question of change of interpreters, as it only arose after his arrival in Ceylon.

7. He suggests that a letter should be written to the Sultan pointing out that the present Interpreter is undesirable, mentioning the Ambassador's recommendation, and asking the Sultan if he approves of the proposed appointment.—A. S. P. 6-2-06.

By Mr. Payden.—The former practice was that the Ceylon Government appointed the Maldivian Interpreter.

2. One Habibu, who was so appointed in July, 1901, acted against the present Sultan during the revolution in 1903, and lost the Sultan's confidence.

3. The Sultan, in December, 1903, appointed Abdul Careem as his Interpreter, and the letter informing the Ceylon Government of the appointment was acknowledged, Such an appointment was not, the Tamil Mudaliyar informs me, ever before made by the Maldivian Government.

4. Habibu remained as Interpreter to the Ceylon Government until July, 1905, when his services were discontinued.—A. S. P. 7-2-06.

By His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.—It would be well to find out what we can about the Sultan's nominee.—A. M. A. 7-2-06.

Report by the Tamil Mudaliyar.—The Maldivian Ambassador's nominee, Maulevi Shaikh Abdul Rahman Alim Sahib, is a respectable resident of Old Moor street, and is about forty years of age. He is possessed of landed property in Negombo and Bentota.

2. He was for nine years the headmaster of the Arabic High School in Colombo. In 1897 he went to Malé, where he was made Arabic and Tamil Secretary to the Sultan. He was also legal adviser to the Maldivian Government. He returned to Colombo about three years ago, and is still understood to be the legal adviser to the Government.

3. He is an Arabic scholar, as his title Alim Sahib (Professor) shows, and is an inspector of the Arabic schools in Colombo. He is considered an authority on Muhammadan law.

4. He also knows Persian, Hindustani, and Tamil, being able to read, write, and interpret in them. His knowledge of Sinhalese and English is somewhat limited.

5. He is now acting as Persian Secretary to Mr. M. J. Mohamad Alie, the Persian Vice-Consul and Justice of the Peace for the Colombo District, who will testify to his good antecedents, qualifications, and character.—R. C. K. 9-2-06.

By His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.—Last time that a Maldivian Interpreter to the Ceylon Government was appointed the Sultan was permitted to make the appointment.

2. I do not know why this was done, but it was contrary to precedent. The Maldivian Interpreter to the Ceylon Government should be appointed by the Governor of Ceylon, which ought not, I think, to brook any suggestions that, while he is in office, he is to be set aside, or the services of any other person employed.

3. The present Interpreter is also Interpreter to the Police Court at Hatton, and is not now in Colombo. The Government has therefore been practically compelled to employ the services of the superseded Interpreter, Abdul Careem, whom Your Excellency desires should be no longer employed, as being a person of bad character.

4. We cannot bring our man down from Hatton.

5. I have therefore consulted the Sultan's Ambassador as to a suitable Interpreter. He names the person described in the Tamil Mudaliyar's note above.

6. I suggest that a letter be written to the Sultan explaining the difficulties which have occurred, and saying that Government proposes to appoint Maulevi Shaikh Abdul Rahman, but that before doing so Your Excellency, out of regard for His Highness, desires to ask whether the appointment is one that will be agreeable to him.—A. M. A. 9-2-06.

No. 244.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The King's Pavilion,
Kandy, February 12, 1906.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—WITH reference to your letter dated December 28, 1903, intimating the appointment of Mr. N. M. Abdul Careem as Maldivian Interpreter to your Government, the receipt of which I acknowledged by my letter of January 22, 1904, I have the honour to inform Your Highness that the Interpreter employed by the Ceylon Government to translate letters received from Your Highness is stationed at some distance from Colombo, and as it is impracticable to bring him to Colombo, the services of Mr. Abdul Careem have hitherto been requisitioned for the purpose of interpreting. The continuance, however, of Mr. Adbul Careem in the responsible office of Maldivian Interpreter to the

Ceylon Government is undesirable, as it has been ascertained that in the course of a case tried before the District Court, Colombo, his integrity was adversely commented on by the presiding Judge."

2. It is therefore proposed to appoint Mr. Maulevi Shaikh Abdul Rahman, Alim Sahib, as Interpreter to the Ceylon Government, but before making the appointment I desire, out of regard for Your Highness, to ask whether the appointment is one that will be agreeable to you. Mr. Maulevi Shaikh Abdul Rahman, Alim Sahib, is believed to be a competent interpreter and translator in the Maldivian language as well as in Arabic, Hindustani, and Tamil.

I have, &c.,

HENRY A. BLAKE.

No. 245.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY his rank be exalted!

YOUR letter dated February 12, 1906, informing that Your Excellency has decided to appoint Maulevi Shaikh Abdul Rahman, Alim Sahib, as Interpreter to Ceylon Government, and desiring to know if it would be agreeable to us, reached us. We beg to state, in reply, that we approve of the appointment of Maulevi Shaikh Abdul Rahman to the post of interpreter as stated in it, for he is quite fit for the post.

Dated at the Sultan's Palace, Malé,
Maldives, 6th Rabiuttani, 1324.
(May 30, 1906.)

Mutual Obligations of Ceylon and Maldivian Governments as regards Shipwrecked Vessels.

No. 246.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The King's Pavilion,
Kandy, October 27, 1904.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE the honour to inform Your Highness that a boat containing 15 Maldivians—13 men and 2 women—was washed ashore at Tirukovil, in the Eastern Province.

2. The party was rescued and taken charge of by the local headman, who arranged for their maintenance and sent them to Batticaloa, from whence they were sent by steamer to Colombo. On their arrival at Colombo they were on my instructions given in charge of the Maldivian Interpreter to the Ceylon Government, who arranged for their board and maintenance pending repatriation. They were sent back to the Maldives in the buggalow "Ganja Father Khar" belonging to Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee.

3. It appears that the shipwrecked persons were crossing between two of the Maldive Islands when they were driven out to sea by stress of weather, and after drifting about for some days they were washed ashore on the east coast of this Island. The mast and sail of the boat had been blown away, and there was no food on board.

4. A sum of Rs. 401·43 is due to this Government, being the cost of transferring these people from Tirukovil to Colombo and maintaining them until they could be sent back to their homes. A statement showing the separate items is annexed. I shall be obliged if Your Highness will cause this amount to be paid to the Ceylon Government at your early convenience. The boat in which the Maldivians were washed ashore will be sold, and I shall be glad to know your wishes as regards the disposal of the proceeds of the sale.

5. In this connection I have to bring to your notice that Mr. N. M. Abdul Careem—of whose appointment as Maldivian Interpreter to your Government you informed me by your letter of December 28, 1903—requested that the shipwrecked Maldivians might be handed over to him, and that the arrangements for repatriating them should be left in his charge. I saw no reason, however, to depart from the usual procedure of entrusting the care of shipwrecked persons to the Maldivian Interpreter to this Government, and I caused Mr. Abdul Careem to be informed of my decision, assuring him that he would be absolved of responsibility in the matter. I shall, however, be glad to know what course Your Highness wishes pursued in future.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE.

No. 247.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldive Islands, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

Translation.

MAY his position be exalted!

WE beg to inform Your Excellency that We received Your Excellency's communication dated October 27, 1904, wherein you informed us regarding the fifteen Maldivians whose vessel broke in your seas, and who were washed on shores of Tirukovil, on the east of the Island of Ceylon, in September last, and also the account of expenditure incurred on their behalf during their stay in Ceylon under your protection till they were sent here. We send herewith a sum of Rs. 401·43 according to particulars through E. G. Adamally & Co., in Colombo, as desired.

We beg to submit to Your Excellency, with due deference and respect, that it has been the practice, since days of old up to now, that if a vessel or ship belonging to a British subject were to be wrecked in our waters for the Maldivian Government to make inquiries and to help them to the best of its ability and provide them with all their needs, such as clothing, food, and lodging, and the expense of sending them either to Ceylon or to India, and no charge is made by the Maldivian Government for such expenses from the British Government at all up to this day; similarly, if a Cundera belonging to our subjects were to be wrecked in your waters, and the passengers in them were to seek protection under you, the British Government used to help them in all their needs, and to send them back to Maldives as usual, and it has been so even during our days. Some time ago a vessel named Umona was wrecked by drifting on a rock in the island of Mamutha, which is one of the islands of the Maldivian Group.

We heard about it from you by the vessel Ilyafee before we received information from there. As it was very difficult for small vessels to navigate during that season between Malé and the island Savatheeb, we at once engaged for hire the aforesaid vessel Ilyafee belonging to Jeevunjee Noorbhai, as there were no steamers available, by paying a sum of Rs. 3,200 for that journey specially, and sent her to Savatheeb to help those in the shipwrecked vessel as usual, and we did not claim any of those expenses as it was not customary. We, therefore, beg Your Excellency to acquaint us with the reason for the change of the existing practice between the two Governments, for we hope that there will be no interruption of the old practice, whereby the sign of our friendship and agreement between the Government of the Maldives and of Britain was manifest.

We also inform Your Excellency the receipt of your letter dated January 21 last, in which we were asked to say what we wanted to be done with the balance money out of the sale of the Cundera boat, and we beg to request that it may be sent to us through Messrs. E. G. Adamally & Co., in Colombo, so that we may pay it to the owners.

Dated Malé, 11th Muharram, 1323, corresponding to March 18, 1905.

No. 248.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's Cottage,
Nuwara Eliya, April 17, 1905.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 11th Muharram, 1323, corresponding to March 18, 1905, regarding the repatriation of the fifteen Maldivians whose vessel was washed ashore at Tirukovil, in the Eastern Province of this Island.

2. I entirely withdraw the claim that was erroneously made on His Highness, and I regret very much that the mistake by which the request for repayment of the expenses incurred by the Ceylon Government was made. The Ceylon Government fully recognizes the mutual obligation to which Your Highness refers, and desires to express its satisfaction with the manner in which it has always been discharged by Your Highness and your predecessors.

3. I have caused a letter to be addressed to Messrs. E. G. Adamally & Co., informing them that they need not pay the sum of Rs. 401·43 which Your Highness has directed them to pay to the Ceylon Government, and I have also directed that the sum of Rs. 14·50, being the balance of the proceeds of sale of the boat, shall be paid to Messrs. Adamally & Co., as desired by Your Highness.

I am, &c.,
HENRY BLAKE.

No. 249.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

Translation.

MAY his position be exalted!

THIS is to inform Your Excellency that the two communications, dated April 17* and May 12 † 1905, respectively, duly reached us, and we were pleased very much by their perusal; and we thank Your Excellency for the same most respectfully.

We are obliged to inform Your Excellency that some of the followers and friends of the ex-Sultan, Imad-ud-din, are trying their best, in order to spoil our name and that of our Government, by publishing in Ceylon newspapers false and groundless complaints regarding us and our Government. Far it be from what they falsely assert! On the contrary, our country is free from all disturbance and is safe, for we try to administer the country with justice and equity, so that the wrath of God may not be on us: nor are we those who disobey the British Government, under whose protection we are, by disregarding the kind and useful advice.

May you live long!

Dated 6th Jamadulavval, 1323, corresponding to July 10, 1905.

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* See No. 248. † See No. 242.

Maldivian Salvage Law.

No. 250.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's Cottage,
Nuwara Eliya, September 16, 1905.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE the honour to forward for Your Highness' favourable consideration a letter addressed to Your Highness by the local agents of Lloyd's regarding some cargo alleged to have been salved and landed in Your Highness' dominions ex ss. "Crusader."

I have, &c.,
A. M. ASHMORE.

No. 251.

Local Agents of Lloyd's to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

Colombo, September 16, 1905.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—A REPORT has reached us from Malé that a quantity of sugar has been salved by the subjects of Your Highness from the steamer "Crusader" while the vessel was ashore on Gafer reef, within the dominion of Your Highness, and that this sugar is now in the custody of Your Highness.

We have reported this matter to the Corporation of Lloyd's, who represent the owners and underwriters of the above-named vessel and cargo, and under instructions received from them we now beg to lay claim to the salved cargo on behalf of the concerned, and to ask Your Highness to be good enough to instruct that same be delivered into the custody of Mr. T. A. J. Noorbhai's representative at Malé, who will arrange for the transmission of the goods to Colombo. Mr. Noorbhai is acting on our behalf.

We much appreciate the great assistance that has been rendered by Your Highness in connection with the discharge of cargo from the steamer, and shall be glad to reasonably reimburse Your Highness any expenses actually incurred. On receipt of a memorandum of these a remittance will be made to Your Highness through the Ceylon Government.

This communication is being despatched by the steamer "Violet," whose services have been obtained from the Ceylon Government. We are also sending our representative, Mr. Charles Stuart Burns, for whom we would beg Your Highness' kind courtesy and assistance as usual.

In anticipation of Your Highness' favourable attention and assistance in this matter,

A. P. WALDOCK,
for Agents of the Corporation of Lloyd's.

No. 252.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

No. 22,254. *Translation.*

MAY his position be exalted!

WE beg to inform Your Excellency that your letter dated September 16, 1905, sent to us together with the letter from Lloyd's Agents regarding the goods salved from the steamer "Crusader," which stranded at the island of Gafer, was duly received.

2. We beg to inform Your Excellency that we have ordered to deal with the matter according to Maldivian law in matters of ships stranding; the law being that if a vessel was wrecked or stranded, and if any goods were salved by the subjects of Maldive upon the orders of the Government, one-half of the things goes to them, for a portion out of that half belongs to the Government and the other portion to the people engaged in the work; and also one-twelfth out of the owner's share goes to the Government in kind, but not in money.

3. This is the rule prevailing from past times, and is not unknown to you. This was the case when a vessel named ss. "Erlangen" was stranded at the island Gafer on August 21, 1895, during the days of Sultan Imad-ud-din, and that fact was reported to Your Excellency by letter dated January 10 (Awwal, 1312).

4. We also beg to state that the Maldivian Government does not charge any payment for the men employed in salvage operations whatever that might be; but the Government does its best to save the vessel by sending all the men in the atolls where the vessels get wrecked. As it happened in this instance, in which all the inhabitants of Malé atoll were despatched by order of the Government to help and to throw the cargo into sea by order of the Captain until the vessel was saved; and while doing so some of the goods were put into "kundira" boats and were unloaded on the island Gafer, but as there was no place to protect them from rain, they were caused to be removed to Malé till information was sent to Your Excellency. The things that were saved reached here on the 16th of Rajab, corresponding to September 17, 1905. Up to date we have not been able to find a buggalow sailing to Colombo to send this information to the owner of the goods, but fortunately the owner came with your letter, and we at once delivered him his things as explained above.

May you live long, &c.

Dated 21st Rajab, 1323.
(September 22, 1905.)

(5)

No. 253.

The Local Agents of Lloyd's to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colombo, September 27, 1905.

SIR,—WE have the honour to inform you that the ss. "Violet" returned from Malé yesterday afternoon, bringing back our representative Mr. C. S. Burns, who was the bearer of our message to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives.

2. Mr. Burns reports that on his arrival at Malé he was accorded an interview with His Highness, at which our message under cover of the letter from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor was presented. At first our representative was informed that our requests were all granted, and that a claim would be sent to the Ceylon Government for expenses incurred in salving the cargo. Subsequently, however, it was argued by the Prime Minister, Ibrahim Didi, who conducted all negotiations, that by Maldivian law the Sultan was entitled to a moiety of all goods saved from wrecks in his dominions. Mr. Burns pointed out that this was contrary to recognized practice, and that according to British law our claim was fully justified. At that time (21st instant) the Prime Minister actually consented verbally to abide by British and general custom, and agreed that if the Ceylon Government would inform the Sultan in regard to this he would be prepared to act accordingly. The following day (22nd), however, Mr. Burns received a letter from the Prime Minister (copy enclosed) reverting to the position previously taken up, and as no further argument or persuasion had any effect, our representative was compelled to accept, under protest, some 1,069½ bags, which was half of the quantity alleged to have been saved, viz., 2,139 bags.

3. We have the honour to submit that by common law "goods which come ashore from a wrecked ship belong to the Crown, unless there are marks upon them, or other evidence to prove an owner." Further, the Merchant Shipping Act clearly defines that by British law any cargo landed from a vessel wrecked on or near the coasts of the United Kingdom are the property of the original owner or his representative. There is every evidence—in fact it is not disputed—that the goods now in custody of His Highness were actually landed from the "Crusader," and we would therefore submit that by his action in refusing delivery to us as representing the concerned, he is contravening the recognized law relating to such matters.

4. We understand that according to agreement the Ceylon Government have undertaken not to interfere with domestic matters concerning the Maldivian Archipelago, but we can hardly believe that, as a dependent of this Government, His Highness would be permitted to arrogate to himself the right to formulate laws contrary to recognized practice, which might disadvantageously affect British subjects, and which cannot be said to be entirely connected with the domestic affairs of his dominions. It seems to us that His Highness might just as well have made a law that the whole of salved cargo should become his property, why stop at a moiety only?

5. Although Mr. Burns was informed that the quantity saved was only 2,139 bags, he was refused admittance to some of the Government godowns, and from this fact, and judging from the large quantity remaining in the warehouse after delivery of the 1,069½ bags already referred to, he has reason to believe that the amount saved was a good deal in excess of that admitted.

6. In the circumstances detailed we have the honour to inquire what assistance you are prepared to give us in recovering this property, which we maintain is unlawfully detained by His Highness the Sultan, and we would further inquire whether the Ceylon Government are prepared to take such steps as will ensure from His Highness the Sultan a complete recognition in the future of the common law governing such matters.

Enclosing copies of letters exchanged between our representative and the Sultan, and begging your early attention to this matter.

A. P. WALDOCK,
for Agents for the Corporation of Lloyd's.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 253.

Mr. C. S. Burns to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

Malé, September 21, 1905.

YOUR HIGHNESS.—WITH reference to the interview accorded me by Your Highness, at which I presented the claim on behalf of the concerned for the sugar landed *ex* ss. "Crusader," covered by a letter from the Ceylon Government, your Prime Minister now advises me that you informed me that you granted all requests made under a misapprehension, and that you are only willing to deliver half the cargo saved. At the same time your Prime Minister informs me that you will be pleased to deliver the balance to Mr. Noorbhai's agent after receipt of a letter from the Ceylon Government to the effect that according to law the goods are the property of the concerned.

Awaiting the favour of Your Highness' reply.

C. S. BURNS.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 253.

The Prime Minister to Mr. C. S. Burns, Representative, Lloyd's Corporation.

The Palace, Malé, September 22, 1905.

SIR,—IN reply to your letter dated September 21, 1905, His Highness has instructed me to write to you that at His Highness' interview yesterday you were informed by him that the salved goods *ex* ss. "Crusader" by the Maldivian subjects will be given in charge of you according to the Maldivian laws and customs, *i.e.*, that one-half of the goods saved by the Maldivians from a vessel wrecked on His Highness' dominions shall be the property of the Maldivian Government and the people who saved them, and the other half is the property of the original owners. Accordingly His Highness has given orders to deliver to you the portion of which you claim and are entitled to.

A. IBRAHIM DIDI,
Prime Minister.

(10)

Enclosure No. 3 in No. 253.

Mr. C. S. Burns to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

Malé, September 22, 1905.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—AT the interview Your Highness was good enough to accord me yesterday, I was distinctly assured that all the requests made by Lloyd's Corporation were granted. In the afternoon Mr. Ibrahim Didi said that it was only intended to give up half. He agreed, however, to give up the balance if, according to British and International law, the concerned were entitled to same.

I therefore addressed Your Highness to this effect at the Prime Minister's Office immediately, and he read the letter and agreed that it was correct. This morning I produced proof to his son regarding the law, but when I saw him he promised to write confirming my letter this morning. I pressed for an early reply, but Mr. Didi only repeated his assurances, and said he would reply in due course, but he would not alter the conditions. I warned him that if he did so I should have to recommend Lloyd's to report the matter, which is most serious, to Government.

He now writes quite differently, and I would point out that the "Crusader's" owners are not subject to Maldivian law.

C. S. BURNS.

N.B.—Although Mr. Burns pressed for a reply to this letter none was vouchsafed.

No. 254.

The Local Agents of Lloyd's to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colombo, October 4, 1905.

SIR,—WE have the honour to inform you that our contractors, Messrs. T. A. J. Noorbhai & Co., advise us that Abdul Hamid Didi, the son of the Prime Minister of the Maldives, arrived here last night. Should he call at your office we shall be glad if you will obtain corroboration of our letter of 27th ultimo from him regarding the sugar salved *ex* ss. "Crusader," and would also be glad to be present if we can be of any assistance.

C. S. BURNS,
for Agents for the Corporation of Lloyd's.

No. 255.

The Local Agents of Lloyd's to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colombo, October 5, 1905.

SIR,—ADVERTING to our letter of yesterday's date, we now see from the newspapers that the annual embassy from the Maldives is expected shortly, and have the honour to request that you will be good enough to take up the question of the disposal of the sugar *ex* ss. "Crusader" with the Ambassador.

AITKEN, SPENCE & Co.,
Lloyd's Agents.

No. 256.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Local Agents of Lloyd's.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, October 6, 1905.

GENTLEMEN,—IN continuation of my acknowledgment of your letter of September 27, on the subject of the sugar salved from the ss. "Crusader," which was stranded in the Maldive Islands, I am directed to forward to you the accompanying copy of a letter* received from His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives, with regard to the cargo salved by the Maldivians.

2. I am to inform you that the Maldivian law as quoted in the Sultan's letter is in accordance with that ruling in previous cases.

F. J. SMITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 257.

The Local Agents for Lloyd's to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colombo, October 7, 1905.

SIR,—WE have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your favour of yesterday's date and copy of translation of letter No. 22,254 from His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives, for which we beg to thank you.

2. While noting that the Maldivian law as quoted in the Sultan's letter is in accordance with that ruling in a previous case, we would point out that we are informed on very good authority that the actual quantity of sugar landed at Malé is greatly in excess of that admitted by the Sultan. We therefore venture to request your kind offices, and that you will take up the matter with the Sultan's Ambassador.

AITKEN, SPENCE & Co.,
Agents for the Corporation of Lloyd's.

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* See No. 252.

No. 258.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Local Agents of Lloyd's.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, October 13, 1905.

GENTLEMEN.—In acknowledging the receipt of your letters of October 4 and 5,* and in continuation of my letter of October 6, on the subject of the sugar salved from the ss. "Crusader," which was stranded in the Maldive Islands, I am directed to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor sees no reason to doubt that the Maldivian law on the subject, which is well known, and has been accepted before in like circumstances by your Company, acting as Lloyd's Agents in the case of the ss. "Erlangen," has been duly complied with in the present instance.

2. The law seems to be not unreasonable, and certainly in the present case has worked no hardship. It must be borne in mind that if not for the assistance of the Sultan and his subjects the whole of the consignment of sugar would have been lost, and a high rate of salvage is therefore proper.

3. The Government of Ceylon has no ground under the circumstances for proposing to interfere with the operation of the Maldivian law, even if it had the power to do so. His Excellency desires me further to point out to you, in your capacity as Lloyd's Agents, that interference, even if possible, would be highly inexpedient, as being calculated to deter the Sultan and his subjects from affording assistance in future cases.

F. J. SMITH.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 259.

Lieutenant-Governor Sir A. M. Ashmore, K.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maladives.

The Queen's Cottage,
Nuwara Eliya, October 14, 1905.

YOUR HIGHNESS.—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 21st Rajab, 1323, corresponding to September 22, 1905,† of the Christian era, reporting the steps taken in connection with the cargo of sugar salved by Your Highness' subjects from the steamer "Crusader," which was recently stranded in your dominions.

I have, &c.,
A. M. ASHMORE.

No. 260.

His Highness Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

Translation.

MAY his position be exalted!

THIS is to inform Your Excellency, in continuation of my letter to Your Excellency, dated 21st Rajab, 1323, corresponding to September 22, 1905, that after we had delivered 1,069½ bags of sugar that were saved from the steamer "Crusader," which stranded on the Island of Gafer, to Mr. Charles Stuart Burns, the agent of Lloyd's Agents, on September 22, 1905, we found an error in the account, and that there was due to their share 150½ bags more, and we delivered them to an agent of T. A. J. Noorbhai at Malé as ordered by the Lloyd's Agents at Colombo to deliver them to him, and we beg Your Excellency to communicate this fact to Lloyd's Agents in Colombo.

May you prosper!

Malé, Palace, Maldives, 6th Shanban, 1323.
(October 6, 1905.)

No. 261.

Lieutenant-Governor Sir A. M. Ashmore, K.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's Cottage,
Nuwara Eliya, October 26, 1905.

YOUR HIGHNESS.—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 6th day of Shanban, 1323, corresponding to October 6, 1905, of the Christian era, intimating that an error was discovered in the account of the cargo of sugar salved from the ss. "Crusader," and that a further 150½ bags which were found to be due to Lloyd's Agents were delivered, as requested by them, to Mr. T. A. J. Noorbhai at Malé, and to thank you for the same.

I have, &c.,
A. M. ASHMORE.

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* See Nos. 254 and 255.

† See No. 252.

No. 262.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Local Agents of Lloyd's.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, October 23, 1905.

GENTLEMEN,—WITH reference to your letter of October 7, and in continuation of my letter of the 13th idem, on the subject of the cargo of sugar salved from the ss. "Crusader," I am directed to inform you that a further letter has been received from His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives intimating that an error was discovered in the account of the salved cargo, and that a further 150½ bags of sugar which were found to be due to you were delivered as requested by you to Mr. T. A. J. Noorbhai at Malé, in addition to the 1,069½ bags handed over to your representative Mr. Burns.

F. J. SMITH.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 263.

The Right Hon. Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, M.P., to the Officer Administering the Government of Ceylon.

Ceylon.—No. 370. Downing street, October 24, 1905.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to transmit to you for your consideration a copy of a letter from Lloyd's with regard to salvage from wrecks on the Maldive Islands.

2. I should be glad to learn what steps can, in your opinion, be usefully taken in the matter.

I have, &c.,
ALFRED LYTTELTON.

The Lloyd's Secretary to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

B. P. 23,764. Lloyd's, October 10, 1905.

SIR,—I AM instructed by the Committee of Lloyd's to beg that you will be so good as to inform the Secretary of State for the Colonies that Messrs. Aitken, Spence & Co., Lloyd's Agents at Colombo, in a recent communication, draw attention to the fact that although the Maldive Islands are on the highway of commerce between East and West and so close to and under the protectorate of Ceylon, there are apparently no means, either judicial or otherwise, of enforcing claims against the Sultan for the recovery of goods that may be salved from wrecks in his dominions. In view of the considerable number of casualties that have taken place in these islands during the past few years, Lloyd's Agents think that some action might be taken with a view to arriving at some definite arrangement for the protection and conservation of any cargo or other property landed from wrecks, and to make it quite clear that such can be rightfully claimed by the parties interested in ship or cargo.

In bringing this matter to your attention, my Committee would be very much obliged if you would be so good as to move the Secretary of State for the Colonies to allow some steps to be taken with a view to carrying out the suggestion made by Lloyd's Agents should Mr. Secretary Lyttelton so see fit.

JOHN B. WATSON,
for the Secretary.

No. 264.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, KG., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

On Tour,
Miscellaneous.—No. 35. Ceylon, January 20, 1906.

MY LORD,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Lyttelton's despatch No. 370 of October 24, 1905, transmitting for consideration copy of a letter from Lloyd's with regard to salvage from wrecks on the Maldive Islands, and desiring to know what steps can be usefully taken in the matter.

2. Having carefully considered the question, I am of opinion that it is inexpedient to interfere at all with the custom at present prevailing in those islands.

3. The law of the Maldives assigns to its local Government one-half of all salvage from wrecks, and this is construed to cover the cost of all assistance rendered by the islanders to ships in distress. Such assistance is always very freely and liberally rendered, sometimes no doubt without any great trouble, but frequently in circumstances of difficulty, which promise no return at all. The distribution on the lines of the local law has never previously been the subject of complaint. To endeavour to alter it might change the attitude of the islanders, from its present one of friendly and courteous readiness to assist, to an attitude of indifference or hostility, which, in its turn, might drive the Colonial Government into a course of interference with the Maldivian Government very much to be deprecated.

4. In the case out of which this correspondence has originated—the case of the wreck of the ss. "Crusader" off the Maldive Islands in September last—after examination of all the facts in connection therewith, there appears to be no cause to complain of the islanders, or of the distribution of salvage. But for the assistance given by the Sultan the whole of the jettisoned cargo would have been lost, and the insurers of the vessel seem to have been fortunate in the circumstances in recovering one-half. There was at first some question as to the correctness of the account, but after it had been adjusted the Sultan at once gave up what had by mistake been retained.

5. In a recent interview with the Sultan's Ambassador, I took the opportunity of suggesting to him that the fullest information, access to stores, &c., should in such cases be given to the owners, and he promised that this will be done. There is not, however, any reason to suspect or anticipate dishonesty.

6. The Colonial Government has always, with the approval of successive Secretaries of State, carefully avoided interfering with the Maldivian Government in the administration of its affairs, and, unless any serious difficulty arises, would wish to continue in that course.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE.

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No. 265.

The Local Agents of Lloyd's to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colombo, January 13, 1906.

SIR,—OUR attention has been drawn to a paragraph appearing in one of the local prints reporting an interview between His Excellency the Governor and the Ambassador from the Maldives, in which the following sentence occurs :—" His Excellency remarked that he was glad to hear that things were contrary to what was stated in the correspondence."

2. The correspondence referred to was presumably that which we had with you in September last, and we have now the honour to request that you will be good enough to obtain from His Excellency confirmation or otherwise of the remark attributed to him.

AITKEN, SPENCE & CO.,
Agents for the Corporation of Lloyd's.

No. 266.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Local Agents of Lloyd's.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, February 6, 1906.

GENTLEMEN,—I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of January 13, regarding the interview between His Excellency the Governor and the Maldivian Ambassador.

2. In reply, I am to state that the Governor is not responsible for the newspaper report, which is, however, probably fairly accurate so far as it goes.

3. The Ambassador denied the assumption that a larger amount of sugar was landed than was acknowledged, and the Governor accepted his denial.

F. J. SMITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

Visit of Sir John Keane, Bart., on the occasion of the Assumption of the State Sword by Sultan Sams-ud-din.

No. 267.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

May his position be exalted!

With due respect and veneration we beg to inform Your Excellency that the time has come for the performance of the important celebration of the assumption by us of the State Sword according to practice obtaining from olden days in the Maldivian domain, and we have fixed the 20th of Jamadul-avval, corresponding to July 24 next, for its performance.

We praise the Lord our Creator for permitting us to enjoy the security and peace under the protection of the British Government, and for having made us worthy and granted us the opportunity of celebrating this event.

May you live long.

Malé Palace, Maldives, 29th Rabiulavval, 1323.
(June 4, 1905.)

No. 268.

Instructions to Sir John Keane, Bart., when proceeding to the Maldive Islands.

Sir John Keane will proceed in H. M. S. "Proserpine," Commander Hulbert, R.N., on the 24th instant, to Malé, in the Maldive Islands.

On arrival at that place Sir John Keane will seek an interview with the Sultan, and present to His Highness the letter appointing him to represent the Governor.

Sir John Keane will attend at the ceremony and present Governor's letter of congratulation with the accompanying sword.*

At the fitting time, which can be arranged after arrival, Sir John Keane will request the Commander of H. M. S. "Proserpine" to salute the Sultan's flag. If on the first interview Sir J. Keane finds that it is agreeable to the Sultan, he will request the Commander of H. M. S. "Proserpine" to land a guard of honour for the ceremony.

No. 269.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, July 19, 1905.

Your Highness,—I have the honour to introduce to Your Highness Sir John Keane, Bart., my Private Secretary, who will present this letter to you, and whom I have deputed as my representative at the celebration of the assumption by you of the State Sword according to the custom of the Rulers of the Maldive Islands.

2. Sir John Keane will be accompanied by Mr. E. B. Denham, Second Assistant Colonial Secretary; and I shall be obliged if you will extend to these gentlemen your good offices during their visit to your dominions.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE.

No. 270.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din, Sultan of the Maldives.

The King's Pavilion,
Kandy, July 19, 1905.

Your Highness,—I have received your letter of 29th Rabiulavval, 1323, corresponding to June 4, 1905, of the Christian era, in which you inform me that you have fixed the 20th day of Jamadul-avval, corresponding to July 24, for the celebration of the assumption by you of the State Sword according to the custom of the Rulers of the Maldive Islands.

2. I am gratified to learn the news of this important ceremony, and I have much pleasure in deputing my Private Secretary, Sir John Keane, Bart., to visit Your Highness' dominions and to be present on my behalf at this auspicious ceremony.

3. I also take the opportunity in sending this letter to you by Sir John Keane to congratulate you on the important event you are celebrating, and to offer for your acceptance the presents I forward by Sir John Keane.

* *Inscription on Sword.*—Presented on behalf of the Ceylon Government by Sir Henry Arthur Blake, G.C.M.G., Governor of Ceylon, to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldive Islands, on the occasion of the assumption by His Highness of the State Sword on July 27, 1905.

4. I have observed with pleasure the loyal friendship you have evinced towards His Majesty's Government from the time you assumed the Government of the Maldive Islands, and I trust that the goodwill which has always existed between the Sultans of the Maldive Islands and the Governors of Ceylon will continue for the mutual benefit of the people of each country.

5. In conclusion, I beg to reiterate my good wishes for a long and prosperous reign, and to state that His Majesty's Government will always be ready to extend to you that protection and assistance it has given to the Sultans who have esteemed the loyalty and friendship of the British Sovereign.

I have, &c.,

HENRY A. BLAKE.

No. 271.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives,
to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

Translation.

MAY his position be exalted!

WE beg to inform Your Excellency that by our letter dated 29th Rabiulavval, 1323, corresponding to June 5, 1905, we informed that the important function of receiving the Sword of State would take place on the 20th of Jamadulavval, 1323, corresponding to July 25, 1905.

We now beg to inform Your Excellency that we have been obliged to postpone the day to 23rd of Jamadulavval, corresponding to July 27, 1905, in consequence of the change of moon according to the astrologers.

May you live long.

Malé Palace, Maldives, 6th Jamadulavval, 1323.
(July 10, 1905.)

No. 272.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives,
to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

Translation.

MAY his position be exalted!

THIS is to inform Your Excellency that the letter dated July 19, 1905, sent with Your Excellency's Private Secretary, Sir John Keane, Bart., who was deputed as Your Excellency's representative to be present on the occasion of assuming the State Sword, which was fixed for July 27, 1905, according to the practice obtaining among the Sultans of the Maldives, and informing that he was accompanied by Mr. E. B. Denham, Second Assistant Colonial Secretary, was duly received.

We beg to inform Your Excellency that we were greatly pleased by their presence, and we showed them the utmost honour, respect, and attention to the best of our ability during their stay under our protection.

May you live long.

Malé Palace, Maldives, 1st Rajab, 1323.
(September 2, 1905.)

No. 273.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives,
to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

Translation.

MAY his rank be exalted!

WE beg to inform Your Excellency that Sir John Keane, Bart., your Private Secretary, who was sent here to represent Your Excellency at the official function of assuming the Sword of State, according to the old standing practice among the Sultans of Maldives, arrived here by the battleship H. M. S. "Proserpine" on July 26, 1905.

We at once sent our great officers and nobles in the palace to receive him with Mr. E. B. Denham, Second Assistant Colonial Secretary. The function took place the next day, July 27, 1905.

We were honoured by their presence, and our assembly was illuminated by their presence in lieu of Your Excellency.

We realized by it a pleasure which could find no bounds, for undoubtedly it is the gracious outcome of Your Excellency's great good nature and sublime kindness.

In the midst of the celebration the letter dated July 19, 1905, which you had so kindly sent, congratulating us on this auspicious occasion, was handed to me, together with a sword and other things as presents, with which you had honoured us as a token of your friendship to us, and a sign of friendship and attachment between the Government of Great Britain and of Maldives, and we received those valued presents with great pleasure and appreciation.

We thank Your Excellency for the expressions of congratulation and pleasure, and for the assurance on the part of Your Excellency of the continuity of the desire of the British Government to extend its help and protection to us, as it was to our predecessors, who had always valued the good relationship with the Kings of Great Britain, and their desire for the well-being and prosperity of our Government; and we pray that you may live long in peace, prosperity, and plenty above all expectation.

Palace, Malé, Maldives, 1st Rajab.
(September 2, 1905.)

No. 274.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. A. Lyttelton, M.P.

Miscellaneous.—No. 337.

The King's Pavilion, Kandy.
Ceylon, August 29, 1905.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your information, the enclosed copy of a report furnished by my Private Secretary, Sir John Keane, whom I deputed to visit the Maldive Islands on the occasion of the celebration, on the 27th ultimo, of the assumption by His Highness the Sultan of the State Sword, according to the custom of the Rulers of the Maldive Islands. I also enclose copy of a memorandum by Mr. E. B. Denham, C.C.S., who by my instructions accompanied Sir John Keane; and a further note by Mr. Denham on the trade and education of the Maldives, with the tables referred to, is added.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 274.

Report of Sir John Keane, Bart., on a Visit to Malé.

H. M. S. "Proserpine," at Sea,
July 30, 1905.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,—I HAVE the honour to inform you that in company with Mr. E. B. Denham, Second Assistant Colonial Secretary, I left Colombo at 10 A.M. on July 24 on board H.M.S. "Proserpine"—Commander A. R. Hulbert, R.N.—and reached Malé at 9 A.M. on July 26.

2. Soon after our arrival A. Ibrahim Didi, Prime Minister to the Sultan, accompanied by his son Ahmed Didi, Private Secretary to His Highness, called upon me. I informed him of the object of our visit, and arranged for an audience with the Sultan at 11.30 A.M. Accompanied by Mr. Denham and Commander Hulbert, I landed in His Highness' State barge, which had been placed at our disposal, and which I was informed was a present from the Government of Ceylon. On landing we were conducted to the Palace and received by the Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, to whom I duly presented the letter introducing our mission. His Highness, who is twenty-seven years of age, has a bright, intelligent countenance. On this, as on subsequent occasions, he appeared shy and retiring, conversing in a whisper with Ibrahim Didi and his son, who, so far as I could gather, seemed to suggest any questions addressed to me or replies to any questions I asked myself. I observe in previous reports that these characteristics of shyness have been ascribed to previous Sultans, but I am not satisfied that they necessarily indicate a want of will power and authority. In other respects I remarked that His Highness seemed to fully appreciate his surroundings, and it is possible that the diffidence displayed at our first interview was due to a desire, not uncommon among Oriental potentates, to avoid any display of excessive self-assurance unsuited to the dignity and opposed to the etiquette of his high office. At our interview various compliments were exchanged. I informed His Highness of the object of our mission, and he expressed himself as highly sensible of the honour shown to him by Your Excellency's Government. His Highness also made inquiries as to the health of His Majesty the King and of Your Excellency. I also took the opportunity to express to His Highness the regret of Your Excellency at the recent misunderstanding with regard to the repatriation of certain Maldivian shipwrecked sailors, and obtained from His Highness an assurance that the arrangements now in force were altogether satisfactory.

3. In the afternoon I called upon Ibrahim Didi at his private residence, and was received in a most friendly manner. At one time Ibrahim Didi was Turkish Consul in Ceylon; he is also a Justice of the Peace of the Colony, and for many years he has been closely connected with Maldivian politics. In appearance he is an alert, intelligent-looking man of sixty years of age. What I remarked during our visit tended to confirm my first impression, that Ibrahim Didi and his family enjoy the very closest confidence of the Sultan and have a dominating voice in the government of the country. One of his sons is Private Secretary to the Sultan, another is Collector of Customs, and many other posts are held by his relations. The previous records of Ibrahim Didi are not altogether to his credit, and though no charges have actually been brought home against him, he has been suspected, not without cause, of political intrigue, incendiarism, and malversation of public funds. I therefore took the opportunity to inform him that Your Excellency expected that he would use his influence in the interests of good order and honest administration, and I especially impressed upon him the necessity for economy in public expenditure and the undesirability of obtaining financial assistance from, or granting monopolies to, Bombay firms. He agreed with this advice, and informed me that these Bombay firms had been at the root of all the island's troubles in the past, and that even now they were inspiring articles in the Ceylon papers with the object of prejudicing the Ceylon Government against the present régime. I informed him that Your Excellency's Government was not influenced by articles in the public press, that if trouble did arise in the island independent inquiry would be made, and that if the administration was found to be openly and justly conducted it would always receive the support of the Ceylon Government and the protection of British rule.

4. The other personages who have figured somewhat prominently in Maldivian politics during recent years are Dori Manipulu, brother of the ex-Sultan Muhammad Didi, a former Prime Minister and a brother-in-law of Ibrahim Didi; Ahmed Didi Hakra Manikfan, who was one of the strongest adherents of the last régime; and Hassan Didi Wilana Manikfan, who was the prime mover in the revolt in favour of the reigning Sultan. Dori Manipulu is, I was informed, living in Malé, but he did not appear at any of the ceremonies. Muhammad Didi holds office under the present Sultan. I had an interview with him at his house, and he informed me that he and the people are contented with the present régime. He mentioned that certain sanitary reforms had created some slight discontent, which he considered would soon subside. Ahmed Didi Hakra Manikfan resides on an outlying atoll and has no connection with Government. From inquiries made I have no reason to believe that he is placed under any special disabilities. Hassan Didi Wilana Manikfan is principal administrator of one of the outlying atolls. He holds, I was informed, somewhat conservative views, and objects to certain of the minor, though more progressive, reforms that recently have been introduced. He was not present at the ceremonies.

The various claims to the Sultanate during the past twenty years and the status and aspirations of the different political parties are somewhat involved, and I attach an interesting memorandum prepared by Mr. Denham on the subject.

5. There is at present every outward evidence that the people are happy and contented. If any ill-feeling does exist, it was most skilfully withheld from our notice. I heard no complaints against any of the officials, and the heartiness which marked the ceremonies connected with the recognition of the new Sultan shows that he is evidently acceptable to his subjects. The general reconciliation of conflicting interests shadowed by Sir Everard im Thurn in his letter of May 21, 1903, appears in fact to have been effected.

6. After our visit to Ibrahim Didi on the evening of July 26 we walked through the town to witness the arrangements for the ceremony on the following day. The circular route, about 1¼ mile in length, along which the main procession was to pass, was decorated throughout by a continuous line of white cloth 8 ft. high, fixed on to a framework of light poles and draped up at intervals so as not to obstruct the view of spectators who lined the footpath: the sameness and straightness of the long line of cloth was relieved by small red flags, which every few yards were fixed to the framework over which the cloth was stretched. The special portion thus set apart for the procession occupied one-half of the spacious roadway, which was all covered with a layer of coral sand, and gave the whole scene a very neat and clean appearance. Importance was lent to the occasion by the erection of stands all along the route for the accommodation of ladies, and of handsomely decorated pavilions at the seven places where the procession was destined to halt in its course. The scene was a picturesque one - the gay colours of these pavilions, the continuous line of decorations, the broad, straight, well-kept thoroughfares, bordered on each side by neat cadjan hedges, the bright dresses of the bystanders: the whole admirably set off by the rich foliage of coconut, breadfruit, mango, and other trees growing in the adjoining compounds.

7. On July 27 ship was dressed in honour of the occasion, and we landed at 10.30 A.M. for the principal ceremony, the Sultan's barge being again placed at our disposal. At the jetty we were met by Ibrahim Didi and his two sons, and, preceded by musicians and spearmen, conducted to the outer courtyard of the Palace, where the principal portion of the ceremony was to be enacted. The ceremony itself is one of ancient origin, and adhered closely to the description given in Maldivian writings of such ceremonies on former occasions. Punctually at 11 A.M. the procession issued from the main Palace gate into the outer courtyard. It was headed by volunteers in two ranks armed and equipped with rifles and accoutrements supplied by the Ceylon Government. These were followed by certain spearmen wearing chocolate-coloured sarongs striped on their lower side with white bands, which appears to be a distinctive dress of the Maldivian officials. Next came His Highness the Sultan led by the High Priest. His Highness was dressed in a loosely fitting garment of orange-coloured muslin spangled with gold, worn over a blue tunic and a skirt of old gold on a green foundation. He wore richly embroidered shoes and a hat of white and gold surmounted by a gold peacock's comb. He was followed by various officers of State, umbrella bearers, fan bearers, and a numerous retinue. On issuing from the Palace gate the procession was joined by Commander Hulbert, Mr. Denham, and myself, and proceeded across the courtyard between the double ranks of the Naval guard of honour, which presented arms, and through the eastern gate of the courtyard for a short distance to a pavilion facing westward, where the formal ceremony of the assumption of the State Sword took place. After the Sultan had taken his position on a richly decorated chair three representatives of the outlying atolls came forward, and in accordance with old custom expressed, in reply to a question of the Prime Minister, in these words, their allegiance and that of those they represented to their new ruler: "We accept him as our ruler provided he protects the poor and rules according to the Muhammadan law and Maldivian customs." Then followed some impressive moments of silent prayer, during which all present set their faces westwards towards sacred Mecca. After a short pause the State Sword was then presented to His Highness by the High Priest, which was the occasion for an outburst of music and the commencement of the salute from the neighbouring battery. As soon as the first salute from the shore batteries was completed a salute of 17 guns was fired by H. M. S. "Proserpine." After the sword had been assumed the seven large white State umbrellas were opened out and the various Ministers of State knelt in turn before the Sultan, touched his right foot with their right hand, and in the recognized Muhammadan form paid homage to their new ruler. Then followed various ceremonies, the essential characteristic of which seemed to be bound up in the mystic number seven. Seven persons entered the pavilion bearing brass brazers, in which ambergris incense was burnt: they withdrew to be succeeded by seven followers bearing a large fan of peacock feathers, who to the sound of slow music performed seven times certain passes in the Royal presence. Their places were taken by seven bearers of bottle brush fans of peacocks' feathers, who performed somewhat similar passes. They were followed by seven bearers of glass flasks, of obvious European manufacture, hardly in keeping with the occasion, containing rose water, with which the Sultan's person was sprinkled seven times. These ceremonies completed, the State belt and scabbard were attached to His Highness' costume and the sword returned to its scabbard, and the procession, in the same order as before, left the pavilion and returned to the outer courtyard, where the same ceremonies were repeated, first in a pavilion facing south and then in one facing north. After the ceremony had been repeated for the third time the Naval guard was drawn up facing the Sultan, and, accompanied by Mr. Denham and Commander Hulbert, I advanced and presented to His Highness the letter of congratulation, sword, and presents with which I had been entrusted by Your Excellency. They were received with evident pleasure, and His Highness desired me to express to Your Excellency his appreciation of the honour shown to him and his people by the presence of our mission. A procession was then formed consisting of spearmen, dancers, and musicians, a gorgeously decorated palanquin, on which was placed an ornamented copy of the sacred Koran, and many other followers, which proceeded along the processional route, where at seven selected places the High Priest read to the people the proclamation announcing the accession of their new ruler. On each occasion a salute of 21 guns was fired from the fort, various dances were performed, and refreshments were provided for the musicians and dancers and others who took part in the procession. The general order and arrangements throughout were admirable. After an absence of some four hours the procession returned to the outer courtyard of the Palace, where the Sultan had throughout remained seated in State, and there performed further dances. A noticeable feature was the costume of the dancers, which closely resembled that worn by the Kandyan Chiefs. At 5.30 P.M. the Sultan returned to the Palace, the Naval guard presenting arms as he withdrew. It has been impossible in the foregoing

to give more than a bare outline of this splendid ceremony—its many interesting and quaint incidents, the various old customs, the hearty co-operation of all concerned, the evident appreciation and good behaviour of the people, all of which afforded us a unique insight into the life and character of these islanders.

8. At 5 P.M. on July 28 His Highness, accompanied by his two brothers Agra Manipulu and Maranda Manipulu, visited H. M. S. "Proserpine." His Highness and suite were much interested in the various articles of naval equipment that were shown to them, and witnessed the firing of two shells from a 3-pounder gun. On His Highness's departure a salute of seventeen guns was fired, which was returned by a salute of nineteen guns at irregular intervals from the shore battery. In the evening we landed and witnessed a most excellent display of fireworks provided by a Ceylon firm. They were said to have cost Rs. 4,000, not in my opinion an excessive sum, as the display was much finer than any I have ever seen in Ceylon. The evening finished by a display of Maldivian fireworks, which were more violent in their action, but not so effective as those from Ceylon.

9. The general appearance of Malé town is one of good order and prosperity. The streets are kept scrupulously clean and periodically covered with coral sand. The sanitary arrangements are primitive, all refuse being buried in each compound. The extent of the island is less than a square mile, and the population about 4,000 souls. I was unable to ascertain any reliable particulars regarding the health of the population. I was informed, however, that many children die before attaining four years of age. Water is obtained from wells, and samples have been procured, which will be duly sent for analysis. I have also obtained samples of soil, and they will be duly forwarded to the Government Analyst for report. I also took the opportunity while at Malé to visit the Kachcheri and Customs premises. A certain number of books appear to be kept, but they are all in Maldivian characters, and I was thus unable to form any estimate of their contents. A complete new set of books has been commenced by the present régime. The premises generally bore a tidy and well-regulated appearance. The Customs duties levied in kind amount to 8½ per cent., and bring in a monthly revenue of Rs. 15,000. The Collector of Customs, E. Abdul Hamed Didi, a son of the Prime Minister, was educated at St. Joseph's College in Colombo, speaks excellent English, and among the books in his office I remarked Lord Curzon's "Problems of the Far East."

10. Before leaving the Prime Minister, Ibrahim Didi, desired me to inform Your Excellency of the fact that the Maldivian wife and son of nine years of age of the *ex*-Sultan are living in Malé under somewhat distressful circumstances. The Maldive Government provides them with food, but is unable to contribute a sum sufficient for their proper support, and is, I understood, desirous of withholding for this purpose a certain portion of the sum now paid to the *ex*-Sultan. The matter was not one on which I was prepared to give any definite reply, and I requested the Prime Minister to address the Colonial Secretary on the subject.

11. Ibrahim Didi also approached me with a request that the Ceylon Government might supply arms and equipments to increase the volunteers to fifty all told—double the present strength. I requested him to address a letter to the Colonial Secretary on the matter. In addition to the twenty-five armed volunteers, there is a further force of seven hundred men armed with spears and native weapons. These men are supported out of public funds and perform labour on Government works. There are numerous old smooth guns, mostly unmounted, scattered throughout the island, and a homogeneous battery of seven small bronze pieces, dating from the Dutch occupation, mounted on iron carriages of recent construction.

12. Shortly before our departure Ibrahim Didi and his sons boarded H. M. S. "Proserpine" and handed me certain presents from His Highness for conveyance to Your Excellency, and again expressed on behalf of His Highness the great honour our visit had been to the Government and people of the island. In conclusion, I would desire to express our grateful appreciation of the courtesy and attention shown to us by Commander Hulbert and the officers of H. M. S. "Proserpine," who did everything in their power to add to the pleasure and facilitate the object of our visit.

J. KEANE.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 274.

Memorandum by Mr. E. B. Denham, C.C.S.

Political Parties in Malé.

THERE appears to be at present only one Political Party in the Maldive Islands, viz., the party of Ibrahim Didi, the Prime Minister.

2. The influence of Ibrahim is everywhere apparent; the sources of his power appear to be—

(*a*) *His influence over the reigning Family.*—The Sultan Sams-ud-din is a young man of twenty-seven; his expression is open and pleasant, and he evinced a great interest in all the functions at which he was present. He was, however, obviously desirous that his Interpreter, the eldest son of Ibrahim Didi, Ahmed Didi, should express his sentiments and make such inquiries and replies as the short interviews required.

The Sultan was most interested in all modern machinery and in the guns on board the "Proserpine."

His tastes are said to be many: he is fond of music, plays the piano and violin, and is the possessor of a gramaphone. He is an ardent bicyclist, as are also his brothers. It may not be out of place here, as showing the influence of Ibrahim Didi, to mention that the latter informed us that the Sultan was anxious to ride a motor bicycle, but that he (Ibrahim Didi) "would not allow one to be brought to Malé as it was too dangerous."

(*b*) Ibrahim Didi is undoubtedly looked upon as the representative of the English Government in the Maldives, and his return to power is no doubt ascribed by the populace to the support he has from the authorities in Ceylon. He has the title of "J. P." inscribed on his visiting cards; he speaks English very fairly; his eldest and third son speak English fluently and dress in European fashion. The third son was educated at St. Joseph's College in Colombo.

The official correspondence of the Ceylon Government with the Sultans and Prime Ministers of the Maldive Islands contain considerable evidence on this point; *i.e.*:—

(i.) Mohamed Didi, *ex*-Prime Minister, writes to Sir E. Noel Walker, K.C.M.G. (May 23, 1893):—"By his long residence in Galle and Colombo, where he has made many friends, Ibrahim Didi has managed by gross misrepresentation of facts to enlist the sympathy and gain the favour of the former Governors of Ceylon."* And again: "Ibrahim Didi was recalled from exile in deference to the Governor's wish..... The Governor advised the Sultan to show some consideration to Ibrahim Didi in view of his past services and in consequence of his being a Turkish Vice-Consul."†

(ii.) H. A. Didi and Ismail Didi to Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, K.C.M.G. (December 1, 1893):—"The banished Ibrahim Didi was recalled from exile at the interference of the Ceylon Government..... The Governor sent a man-of-war to Malé with the Aide-de-Camp and Ibrahim Didi and his son..... and Ibrahim Didi's power being strengthened by the action of the Ceylon Government, the Sultan was deposed." "Ibrahim Didi 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 interference on his behalf."‡

(iii.) Extract from a letter from the Sultan of the Maldives to the Governor of Ceylon (June 28, 1899):—"From the letter it appears that Your Excellency wishes that Haji Ibrahim should continue in the office of Prime Minister."§

(iv.) Letter from His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives to Sir West Ridgeway (July 23, 1901):—"Ibrahim Didi stayed in Colombo about ten months and arrived here in a man-of-war. He then deposed our Sultan..... We are reminded that Ibrahim Didi's going to Colombo now may be with a similar object of creating a revolution."‖

(v.) Letter from His Highness the Sultan of the Maldive Islands to Sir West Ridgeway (August 3, 1901):—"The common people of the country would, however, view visits of English men-of-war with suspicion, owing to Haji Ibrahim Didi having, during the time he was administering the affairs of the 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..... He also used to show as proof that he held the offices of Consul and Justice of the Peace. Besides his holding these titles and speaking as he did, on some occasions certain things occurred here which lent support to his words."¶

(c) *The family influence exerted by Ibrahim Didi and his Sons.*—His eldest son, E. Ahmed Didi, is Private Secretary to the present Sultan: his third son, E. Abdul Hamid Didi, is in charge of the Customs, into the management of which he appears to have imparted considerable method. These two young men are far in advance of the other Maldivians as regards European education; and the Sultan, who appears fond of Western civilization, no doubt relies on their companionship and experience.

The second son of Ibrahim Didi, Abdul Majid Didi, took a leading part in the arrangements for the ceremonies of the 27th, and with Ibrahim's brother, Abdulla Didi, keeps the ministry in touch with the Maldivians, among whom they appear to be very popular. It is noteworthy that these two members of the family dress in Maldivian costume, while Ibrahim Didi and his eldest and youngest sons wear semi-English dress. The *ex*-Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din complained of Abdul Majid and Abdulla Didi being left at Malé by Ibrahim in 1900, as "they incited the people by various artifices and tricks."**

Abdulla organized the Volunteer movement, and takes a prominent part in all forms of public sports and entertainment. He was described by the Tamil Mudaliyar as "a Cabinet Minister but holding no portfolio."

(d) *The absence at present of any Opposition.*—The only elements in the State opposed to the present Government appear to be—

(i.) Hassan Didi Wilene Manikfan, who was reported by the *ex*-Sultan to be the leader of the revolt against him.††

Hassan is said to be on a distant atoll "managing his property." His exile is due, according to Muhammad Didi and other informants, to his opposing various sanitary measures introduced by the present ministry, which involved further clearings and the levelling of some old houses. He appears to be the leader of the old Tory party, and to be opposed to the presence of Europeans at Malé. (In a letter written by Professor Stanley Gardiner to Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din, May 8, 1900, Hassan Didi is said to have prevented the Professor from seeing the Sultan.)‡‡ It is unlikely that he is being subjected to any great privations, as his two sons are married to the two daughters of Ibrahim Didi, while his granddaughter is married to the Sultan.

(ii.) Ahmed Didi Hakra Manikfan—the right-hand man of the *ex*-Sultan—who has also been banished to an outlying atoll.§§

(iii.) Muhammad Didi, who was at one time the chief rival of Ibrahim Didi, appears to be contented with the present régime. He has probably decided that it is not worth while maintaining the struggle against Ibrahim, and is satisfied to remain a Minister and leave the chief power in his rival's hands, provided his own comfort is not interfered with. As described by Sir Everard im Thurn, he appears to be "a good-natured fellow with considerable common sense."

(e) *The previous successes of Ibrahim Didi as a "Kingmaker"* have accustomed the people to regard him as virtual ruler of the State.

The changes between 1887 and 1889, when Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din abdicated and was succeeded by his nephew, Muhammad Muin-ud-din, in 1887, who himself abdicated in 1888-89, when power was once more resumed by Ibrahim Nur-ud-din, are all ascribed to Ibrahim Didi.

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* *Vide* page 24, Papers relating to the Maldive Islands, Part I.
† *Vide* pages 24, 25, do. do.
‡ *Vide* pages 34, 35, do. do.
§ *Vide* page 54, do. do.
‖ *Vide* page 61, do. do.
¶ *Vide* page 64, do. do.
** *Vide* page 63, do. do.
†† *Vide* page 76, do. do.
‡‡ *Vide* the letter from Professor Stanley Gardiner, p. 90 (Annexure B), referred to in Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din's letter of June 26, 1903, to Sir West Ridgeway, p. 85, Papers relating to the Maldive Islands, Part I.
§§ *Vide* pages 68, 69, Papers relating to the Maldive Islands, Part I.

The recent change in the Government was largely due to Ibrahim's counsels and the active intervention of his eldest son, Ahmed Didi, who was described by the *ex*-Sultan as "the very soul of the conspiracy" against him.*

3. Ibrahim Didi at the present time is probably more powerful than he has ever been before. The assumption of the State Sword may be regarded as setting the seal on his administration, as the ratification by him of the choice of Sams-ud-din as the "*roi fainéant*," while the public were gratified by the spectacular display provided for them.

4. It is to be hoped that Ibrahim Didi will use his power with moderation, and it behoves the Ceylon Government to watch developments with special care and attention, for undoubtedly the influence of Ibrahim rests very largely on the supposed support given him by the English Government.

5. In a country of so inconsiderable an area and among a people so unwarlike as the Maldivians the rise of any "National" party is very unlikely. What would create such a party would be any excessive corruption and extortion on the part of Ibrahim Didi and his family. Such extortion would probably be practised through one of the Bombay firms which now hold so much of the trade of the Maldives. Any special privilege granted to one of these firms might mean the destruction of local trade and an increase in the cost of all imported articles. Discontent would be at once stimulated by the other merchants, who can exercise considerable power through the indebtedness of nearly all the inhabitants to them. A "National" leader is perhaps possible in the person of the Sultan's second brother, the Agea Manipulu, who appears to be a very intelligent youth—he is aged 22—who, financed by a Bombay firm or firms, might be able to break down the present party or raise a "Palace" revolt.

6. Such a contingency is, however, only possible if misrule is fostered by Ibrahim Didi. He has previously experienced reverses. He lost power in 1899, as Sir William Taylor reports, "by thinking he could exact his own terms and finding out too late that he was mistaken;"† and it is probable that he has learnt his lesson. He was at one time greatly involved with the Carimjee Jafferjee firm, but he informed us that no special concessions were now being granted to any Bombay firm. If such is the case, the present predominance of his house may be only productive of good to the Maldive Islands.

A table giving the Sultans of the Maldives and their Prime Ministers since 1887 is annexed.

On Board H. M. S. "Proserpine,"
July 30, 1905.

E. B. DENHAM.

Annexure A.

List of the Sultans of the Maldives and their Prime Ministers since 1887.

Sultan.	Reign.	Died while on the Throne, abdicated, or deposed.	Prime Minister.	Remarks.
Ibrahim Nur-ud-din ..	1881–1886, five years	Abdicated ..	Ibrahim Didi	—
Muhammad Muin-ud-din ..	1887–1889, two years	Deposed ..	Ibrahim Didi: Mohammad Didi	Ibrahim Didi held office for the first few months of 1887, but was disgraced for attempting to restore Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din
Ibrahim Nur-ud-din ..	1889–1892 ..	Died November, 1892	Ibrahim Didi	Ibrahim Didi succeeded in restoring Sultan Ibrahim Nur-ud-din at the end of 1888 or beginning of 1889, which he had failed to do in 1887
Muhammad Imad-ud-din ..	1892–1893, six months	Deposed ..	Ibrahim Didi	—
Muhammad Sams-ud-din. ..	1893, three months	Deposed ..	Mohammed Didi	—
Muhammad Imad-ud-din ..	1893–1903 ..	Deposed March 11, 1903	Ibrahim Didi, 1893–1899	Ibrahim Didi was disgraced in 1899 on account of his transactions with the firm of Carimjee Jafferjee
			Mohammed Didi, 1899–1904	The power was virtually in the hands of Ahmed Didi Hakra Manikfan, the Sultan's favourite
Muhammad Sams-ud-din ..	1903 ..	Now reigning ..	Mohammed Didi, 1903–1904	Ibrahim Didi returned to the Maldives in 1904 and resumed power
			Ibrahim Didi, 1904	

* *Vide* page 87, Papers relating to the Maldive Islands, Part I.
† *Vide* page 50, do. do.

Annexure B.

GENEALOGICAL TABLE.

Muhammad Imad-ud-din (1832–1881).

Hussan Izz-ud-din (blind)

- Muhammad Muin-ud-din (Declared Sultan in 1887; ruled till end of 1889, was deposed, and died in 1889)
- Muhammad Imad-ud-din (Proclaimed himself Sultan in July, 1893. He was dethroned March 11, 1903)
- Dori Manipulu (Acted as Regent from September, 1902, to March, 1903, during absence of the Sultan at Suez)
- Tuttu Manipulu (Acted as Regent in 1900 during absence of Sultan at Mecca)

Ibrahim Nur-ud-din (1881–1886 as Regent; retired in his nephew's favour; resumed throne in 1889 and ruled till his death in 1892)

- Muhammad Sams-ud-din, the present Sultan (Nominal Sultan for about three months in 1893; deposed by his cousin Muhammad Imad-ud-din, whom he succeeded as Sultan in 1903)
- Agon Manipulu (Declared Sultan as Muhammad Imad-ud-din in 1893, when 7 years old; ruled six months. Deposed by Ministers and people as he was not the eldest son, and his accession was contrary to the Maldivian law and usage)
- Marandu Dori Manipulu
- Marandu Tuttu Manipulu

Enclosure No. 3 in No. 274.

Note by Mr. E. B. Denham, C.C.S., on Trade and Education.

Trade.

I ANNEX tables showing the exports from and the imports into Ceylon from the Maldives from 1894 to 1904.

2. From these it appears that the present trade of the Maldives is in a flourishing condition. The value of Ceylon imports from the Maldives in 1904 was Rs. 444,000 in excess of 1903, and was only surpassed in 1899 and 1902 during the past ten years.

3. The value of the exports to the Maldives was in excess of all previous years, due chiefly to the large increase in the amount of foreign produce exported from Ceylon.

4. The largest increases in export were under :—

(*a*) Piece goods.
(*b*) Worked timber and furniture.
(*c*) Rice.
(*d*) Refined sugar.
(*e*) Kerosine oil.
(*f*) Wearing apparel.
(*g*) Provisions.
(*h*) Corrugated iron.
(*i*) Silk and satin broad stuff (a new export to the Maldives).
(*j*) Glass and glassware.

(*a*), (*b*), (*f*), (*g*), (*h*), (*i*), and (*j*) all point to an increased desire for the articles of European civilization in the dress and houses of the people. There was considerable evidence of this spread of Western civilization in Malé itself.

5. The value of arecanuts exported from Ceylon was as usual high, but for the first time for many years arecanuts were not the chief article of export to the Maldives, the value of kerosine oil exported being greater.

6. Among the imports to Ceylon from the Maldives the largest increases were under :—

(*a*) Fish cured and salted—the staple industry of the Maldivians—increase of Rs. 420,000.
(*b*) Copra—increase Rs. 7,000.
(*c*) Coconuts—increase Rs. 24,000.

On tortoise-shell and other shells there were decreases in value of imports.

7. The trade of the Maldives should be a stable one: it meets a steady demand in supplying those food stuffs which have been preferred by the people of India and Ceylon for centuries.

8. The seas round the Maldives are famous for the vast supplies of fish.

9. The soil of the island is very fertile; the "system" of disposing of the night soil and of sanitation tends to increase its fertility. Every garden has a well in it.

10. The trade is chiefly in the hands of "Borah" merchants—agents of Parsee firms—who are always endeavouring to obtain monopolies.

11. The Maldivian industries—mat-making, lacquer work, carving handles of knives—are only carried out on a small scale, and the articles produced are chiefly valued by the Maldivians for purposes of barter and as presents. There was no display of them in Malé. With great difficulty a trader in Maldivian mats was discovered, and he had apparently never seen a five-rupee note before.

Education.

The education given by the Maldivians to their children is almost exactly the same as the Moorman in Ceylon considers sufficient for his family. There are the same Koran schools, the same objections to teaching the women anything, and the same lessons of repetition of Arabic verses, which are as meaningless to the teacher as to those taught, and the same payment to the teacher in kind according to the number of verses learnt; the higher classes sing Hindustani songs to the accompaniment of a "guitar," but it is probable that the meaning of the verses is not known.

Notes put up by the Tamil Mudaliyar are annexed. Those on trade are from the reports of — Sir William Taylor and Lieutenant-Colonel Willis, R.M.L.I.

August 14, 1905. E. B. DENHAM.

Notes by the Tamil Mudaliyar.

I.—TRADE.

THE trade is almost wholly with British India and Ceylon.

A.—Ceylon.

1. The chief articles of import into Ceylon are fish, tortoise-shell, fish manure, cowries, coconuts, and copra.

2. The principal articles sent from Ceylon are rice, sugar, cotton manufactures, kerosine oil, curry stuffs, &c., which are the produce of other countries. The only Ceylon produce largely exported is arecanuts.

All trading must be done through Malé. Import duties are in kind, one bag of rice in twelve; other articles various proportions. This is divided up between the Sultan and his 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, Re. 1·50 for a cwt.

B. - India.

Coconuts and coir from the Maldives go mostly to Calcutta, India.

The staple products of the island are coconut, fish, tortoise-shell, and ambergris. Coir of excellent quality is manufactured for purposes of export. The well-known Maldive mats are made in Suwadiva, 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.

II.—Education.

(The following scraps of information have been just obtained from unofficial sources. There are at present no means of verifying them.)

1.—*In Malé.*

Malé is divided into four wards. In each of them is a mixed school, where the children are taught reading and writing the Maldivian language. There are about 350 school-going children. A bag of rice of 2½ bushels is the only monthly remuneration by the Government to the schoolmaster.

2. -*In the outlying Islands.*

To each mosque is attached a school, where the resident priest teaches the children the elements of reading, writing, and arithmetic.

August 12, 1905.

R. C. KAILASAPILLAI.

Reports by Officers of H. M. S. "Proserpine."

(Military Forces of Sultan and Sanitary Condition of Maldives.)

No. 275.

The Right Hon. Mr. A. Lyttelton, M.P., to the Officer Administering the Government of Ceylon.

Ceylon.—No. 336. Downing street, September 15, 1905.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for your information, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Admiralty forwarding two reports: the first on the military forces of the Sultan of the Maldives, and the other on the sanitary condition of the Island of Malé.

2. In connection with the latter, I would refer to the correspondence noted in the margin.* I should be glad to know whether the Ceylon Government can give any further help or advice as regards sanitation and water supply if opportunity should offer.

I have, &c.,
ALFRED LYTTELTON.

Enclosure in No. 275.

The War Office to the Colonial Office.

Admiralty, September 1, 1905.

SIR,—I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies copy of two reports by Officers of H. M. S. "Proserpine": (1) On the military forces of the Sultan of the Maldives; and (2) on the sanitary condition of the Island of Malé.

These reports were compiled during a recent visit of the "Proserpine" to the Maldive Islands.

C. J. THOMAS.

(1) *Report on the Military Forces of the Sultan of the Maldives.*

H. M. S. "Proserpine," at Colombo,
August 2, 1905.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to forward for your information a description of the military forces of the Sultan of the Maldives from my own observation during my stay of three days at Malé.

2. The organized armed men in the pay of the Government consist of the following totally distinct bodies:—(1) The Palace Guards; (2) the Gunners; (3) the Volunteers; (4) the Lascoreen or Militia.

3. The palace guards are about 40 in number, dressed in the native uniform of dark striped sarong and silk sash, the officers being distinguished by a yellow border to the sash. These guards are of finer physique than the average Maldivian, and are probably the pick of the inhabitants of Malé. Their duties appear to consist of those of guarding the palace, keeping order at State ceremonies, and inflicting corporal punishment upon offenders against the law. They can hardly be called troops, as their arms consist only of a red leather shield, a wooden lacquered stick, and a dagger.

4. The gunners are only about twelve in number, and their employment is the care of the various pieces of ordnance in the island and the firing of salutes. These men wear a most extraordinary uniform, consisting of a coarse scarlet cloth coat tightly buttoned in front and cut like a European evening dress coat behind, with long tails edged with white. The trousers are of the same coarse scarlet cloth with most voluminous folds round the hips, but fitting closely round the ankles; like all Maldivians, except the Sultan and his brothers, they wear no shoes. The head dress is a scarlet hat with large soft flaps hanging down, which are lined with dark blue. They carry no arms. The ordnance consists of seven small Dutch guns of brass made in 1745, mounted on iron field carriages, numerous old iron guns in various dilapidated batteries round the island, and some small hand mortars, which are carried from place to place for saluting purposes during State processions. There are also several brass flintlock blunderbusses used for saluting purposes. I saw no projectiles of any sort.

5. The men who go by the name of "volunteers" are a small body of 30 men armed with Martini rifles and long sword bayonets; they receive pay, and are liable to be called upon as a guard of honour upon all State occasions. They wear a white drill uniform of European pattern, red fez, and white belt. These arms and equipments were stated to have been originally a gift from the Ceylon Government to the Sultan. Their physique is poor, but a great deal of trouble has apparently been taken to teach them drill and parade movements.

6. The lascoreen or militia, who are about 1,000 strong, are apparently the whole of the male population of Malé not enrolled in the forces mentioned above. They are armed with light 16 ft. lances and short daggers. Their uniform is the same native dress as the palace guard, with some minor differences. They are used as police or for ceremonial purposes, and may be apparently called upon by the Sultan to perform any public tasks requiring a large number of men. They are paid in money and food.

* Governor, No. 238, July 5, 1894 (No. 47 in Part I.); Governor, No. 454, December 16, 1894 (No. 48 in Part I.); Secretary of State, No. 18, January 11, 1895; Governor, No. 68, February 15, 1895.

7. The forces described above constitute the whole of the armed men at the disposal of the Sultan. They appear to be suitable for police duties and for the upholding of the Sultan's authority in the islands, but would be, in my opinion, quite powerless against a hostile force of about 100 well-armed men.

ARTHUR R. HULBERT,
Commander.

(2) *Sanitary Conditions at Malé.*

1. *Water Supply.*—There are two sources from which fresh water either for domestic or drinking purposes are obtained, namely, rain water and well water.

(*a*) *Rain Water.*—This is collected by means of the few galvanized iron roofs which some of the larger huts are roofed with, the water collecting in troughs, and passing by means of iron pipes into large wooden boxes, where it is stored. This is the water that, if possible, the natives use as drinking water, but as this is necessarily limited, only a few of the influential class can obtain it; the remainder, which are by far in the majority, having to use well water for drinking purposes.

(*b*) *Well Water.*—This is extremely plentiful, and is easily obtained by sinking wells a few feet below the surface. All the compounds adjoining the huts have at least one well in them.

General Remarks on above Supply.—The whole island being of an extremely porous nature the water in the wells, which are only a few feet below the surface, is easily contaminated by sewage or other obnoxious matter deposited on the surface of the earth. The water in the wells is most certainly thus contaminated by sewage matter, especially those in the compounds, as will be seen by the method of disposal of the human excreta. And no doubt that this water is also polluted by the process of bathing, the bathing pools being simply large wells set apart for this purpose, in some cases within a few yards from a well supplying drinking water.

From the above remarks the water contained in these wells should be most strongly condemned as drinking water.

Better facilities for collecting rain water should be attempted, and before using this, the necessity of first boiling it after being stored in the collecting tank for any lengthened time should be impressed on the natives: a feeble attempt at this process is at present in use, the natives placing a heated piece of iron in the water before using.

1. *Analysis of Well Water.*—It has a slight slaty-green colour, with no turbidity.
2. Slight odour of burnt organic matter when warmed. Temporary hardness not marked.
3. Residue left on evaporation marked, with slight charring of this residue on further heating. Odour not very marked.
4. Free ammonia well marked, also presence of magnesia.
5. Chlorides distinctly present; about 7 grains of chloride per gallon, or 11½ grains of sodium chloride.
6. Nitrites also markedly present.
7. About 4 degrees of hardness in water.
8. A very slight trace of iron present in water.
9. Amount of oxygen absorbed being excessive: ·40 grains of oxygen absorbed by organic matter in 1 gallon of the water.

From the above analysis the well water is undoubtedly unfit for human consumption, and should be most certainly condemned. It shows contamination by sewage matter, and in addition this pollution is recent.

Disposal of Sewage.—The human excreta are disposed of in two ways: (*a*) The domestics and the poorer inhabitants resort to the seashore and there perform the daily necessities of nature; (*b*) the so-called better classes use the compound adjoining their huts for the same purpose.

This compound is divided into two parts: one for the males and another for the females, and is adjacent to the dwelling-place, being in all cases not more than about 15 yards by 10 yards in extent.

The excreta are simply deposited in a small hole in the soil made by an iron bar kept for this purpose, and then covered up with the loose soil.

Within this compound, not a few feet away, is a well from which a plentiful supply can be drawn, although this water is said to be rarely used for drinking purposes, except by the domestics, who perforce must use it, as rain water is extremely scarce.

General Remarks.—It was extremely difficult to ascertain definitely what diseases were most prevalent in the island; they apparently were not subject to any outbreaks of an infectious nature, and are extremely careful about quarantine regulations to prevent any outbreak. I saw several men who were suffering from diseases due to the tubercle bacillus, such as caries of the spine, tubercular glands in the neck, phthisis, and a few cases of leprosy. Elephantiasis was not apparently heard of in the island. Several deaths were due to "bowel complaints," no doubt due to the water. Lately a few cases of venereal disease had appeared; the natives showed no external signs of inherited syphilis, which, if this had been prevalent on the island, would undoubtedly have left some external signs.

Their marriage laws are extremely lax, divorce being easily obtained. Prostitution, though, is said not to occur. From the extremely lax way in which divorce is obtained, it might be thought that there would be a considerable amount of consanguinity, but this is said to be prevented by not allowing the divorced wife to again re-marry until a period of three months and ten days have elapsed, and then only if no indication of her being *enceinte* is present, the children from any such issue being cared for by the mother until they are four years old, and after this time they are transferred to the father should he wish to take charge of them.

The chief articles of diet are fish and rice, meat being very rarely obtained, the poorer people probably never having tasted it.

Their work appears to be fishing, and in the season coconut picking. A large amount of fish is dried and cured and exported from the islands.

M. P. JONES,
Surgeon.

August 1, 1905.

No. 276.

Lieutenant-Governor Sir A. M. Ashmore, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. A. Lyttelton, M.P.

Miscellaneous.—No. 440.

The Queen's Cottage, Nuwara Eliya,
Ceylon, October 19, 1905.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch No. 336 of September 15, transmitting copy of a letter from the Admiralty forwarding copies of two reports: one on the military forces of the Sultan of the Maldive Islands, and the other on the sanitary condition of the island of Malé.

2. With regard to the latter, I have the honour to enclose, for your information, copy of a letter addressed to the Sultan by Sir H. Blake's order on the 7th ultimo.

I have, &c.,

A. M. ASHMORE.

Enclosure in No. 276.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, September 7, 1905.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE the honour to inform Your Highness that the samples of water, which you were so good as to order to be procured for my Private Secretary, Sir John Keane, on his visit to Malé, have been analyzed.

2. I enclose copies of the analyses, from which you will see that the analyst of this Government reports very unfavourably of the quality of the water as drinking water. One sample was pronounced to be "unfit for drinking."

3. The water supply of a country is of such immense importance to its inhabitants that I am sure Your Highness will be glad of any suggestions I am able to offer, which may tend to improve the quality of the drinking water in Malé.

4. It is not an infrequent practice in Ceylon—and one which I understand prevails in Malé—for persons to bathe at wells from which drinking water is drawn. The water percolates back into the well—from a distance at least equal to the depth of the well—and thus fouls the supply of drinking water. I would advise that the bathing at wells from which drinking water is drawn should meet with an expression of Your Highness' disapprobation. I understand that large open tanks for bathing are conveniently situated in many parts of the town of Malé, so that the people would in no way suffer from any prohibition of bathing near drinking water wells. A regulation enforcing the fencing of wells from which drinking water is drawn would facilitate the prevention of this abuse, and protect them from pollution by animals and other sources. Medical science prescribes a distance equal to the depth of the well as the area which should be kept clear all round it. If possible this space should be paved or cemented, and the ramp round the well should have sloped sides which would not allow of persons standing on the wells and pouring water over their bodies.

5. Water should never be taken for drinking purposes from any supply in the immediate neighbourhood of a burial ground, and all wells which are situated in close proximity to cemeteries or bathing places should be closed and new ones opened in suitable places.

6. I would also suggest for Your Highness' consideration, as I understand many of your subjects have roofed their dwellings with galvanized iron, and its use is yearly increasing, that by placing guttering along these roofs a supply of rain water can be caught and run off into receptacles placed for the purpose. The use of rain water for drinking purposes is deserving of encouragement. In many parts of the dominions of His Majesty the King it is the principal source of supply, and is caught in the way referred to above.

7. I have ordered two copies of a book containing information regarding the water supply and sanitation of towns in the Indian Empire, which has been found a useful work of reference in India and Ceylon, to be forwarded to you with this letter. This book will give you any further information Your Highness may desire on a subject which must be of the greatest concern and interest to yourself as it is to this Government.

I trust Your Highness is in the enjoyment of good health, and that your dominions continue to prosper.

I have, &c.,

HENRY A. BLAKE.

No. 277.

The Right Hon. Mr. A. Lyttelton, M.P., to the Officer Administering the Government of Ceylon.

Ceylon.—No. 350.

Downing street, September 28, 1905.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir H. A. Blake's despatch No. 337* of August 29, and to express my thanks for the reports on the Maldives which were enclosed.

2. As regards sanitation and the water supply, I would refer you to my despatch No. 336† of the 15th instant.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED LYTTELTON.

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* See No. 274.

† See No. 275.

Salute to Sultan.

No. 278.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Secretary to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, July 25, 1905.

SIR,—I AM directed to inform you that the following telegram was despatched by His Excellency the Governor to the address of His Excellency Vice-Admiral G. L. Atkinson-Willes on July 22, 1905:—

"I have received instructions from Secretary of State for Colonies to accord Sultan, Maldives, salute of seventeen guns on occasion of forthcoming visit."

G. F. FORREST,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 279.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

No. 2,048. "Hyacinth," at Colombo, June 29, 1907.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to request that Your Excellency will be good enough to inform me whether you have any information as to the salute to which the Sultan of the Maldive Islands is entitled.

2. It appears that he has been saluted with guns varying from 15 to 21, and I consider it desirable that the proper salute to be fired by His Majesty's ships should be definitely laid down.

G. WARRENDER, Commodore,
Commander-in-Chief.

No. 280.

His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, July 8, 1907.

SIR,—IN reply to your letter No. 2,048 of June 29 last, on the subject of the salute to which the Sultan of the Maldive Islands is entitled, I have the honour to inform you that instructions were received in 1905 from the Secretary of State for the Colonies that His Highness the Sultan should be accorded a salute of seventeen guns.

2. I informed Vice-Admiral Sir G. L. Atkinson-Willes, K.C.B., the Commander-in-Chief of the East Indies Station, at the time accordingly by telegram on July 22, 1905.

I have, &c.,

HENRY A. BLAKE.

Appointment of Mr. T. A. J. Noorbhai as Sub-Agent to Lloyd's at Male.

No. 281.

The Local Agents for Lloyd's to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colombo, November 1, 1905.

SIR,—WE have the honour to inform you that, acting under the direction of the Corporation of Lloyd's, London, we have arranged for Mr. T. A. J. Noorbhai (or his duly appointed agent) to act as Sub-Agent to the Corporation at Malé, Maldive Islands.

2. We have the honour to request that you will be good enough to inform His Highness the Sultan of this fact and bespeak for the Sub-Agent a recognition of his office, and the kind assistance of the Sultan and his Government in matters connected therewith.

A. P. WALDOCK,
for Agents for the Corporation of Lloyd's.

No. 282.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Local Agents for Lloyd's.

No. 25,109.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, November 13, 1905.

GENTLEMEN,—I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of November 1, intimating that you have arranged for Mr. T. A. J. Noorbhai to act as Sub-Agent at Malé in the Maldive Islands to the Corporation of Lloyd's, and requesting the Ceylon Government to intimate the appointment to His Highness the Sultan of the Maldives and to bespeak a recognition of Mr. Noorbhai's office.

2. In reply, I am to inquire what Mr. Noorbhai's duties will be precisely under the appointment as Sub-Agent to Lloyd's at Malé.

F. J. SMITH.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 283.

The Local Agents for Lloyd's to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colombo, November 18, 1905.

SIR,—IN reply to your letter No. 25,109 of 13th instant, we have the honour to enclose herewith "Instructions to Lloyd's Agents," * giving particulars of what Mr. Noorbhai's Agent's duties are to be at Malé as Sub-Agent to the Corporation of Lloyd's, London.

A. P. WALDOCK.
for Agents for the Corporation of Lloyd's.

No. 284.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Local Agents for Lloyd's.

No. 26,360.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, November 30, 1905.

GENTLEMEN,—IN acknowledging the receipt of your letter of November 18, forwarding a copy of the "Instructions to Lloyd's Agents," giving particulars of Mr. T. A. J. Noorbhai's duties as Sub-Agent at Malé to the Corporation of Lloyd's, London, I am directed by the Lieutenant-Governor to state that Bombay firms are found by the experience of the Ceylon Government to be the sources of intrigue and trouble in the Maldives, and that, on consideration, His Excellency regrets he finds himself unable to make any recommendation to the Sultan about Mr. Noorbhai, who would, the Lieutenant-Governor is apprehensive, abuse any recommendation to usurp an authority and influence which were not intended to be given.

2. The "Instructions to Lloyd's Agents" are herewith returned. His Excellency has not the leisure to extract the small portion from them which might possibly be applicable to a Sub-Agent in the Maldives.

F. J. SMITH.
for Colonial Secretary.

* Not printed.

Bombay Merchants at Malé.

No. 285.

Lieutenant-Governor's Minute of January 10, 1906.

THE Sultan's Ambassador complained that the following Bombay merchants: (1) Messrs. Adamaly & Co.: (2) Messrs. T. A. J. Noorbhai & Co.: (3) Messrs. A. H. S. Jeevunjee & Co.: (4) Mr. M. S. H. Abdulally: and (5) Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee had entered into a bond, by which they agreed among themselves that the exchange of rice for Maldive fish (which is the main trade of the islands) should be at a certain rate, by which far too low prices for their produce was assigned to the islanders.

2. This collusion lasted for years and has only recently broken down, and the Sultan's Government are afraid that the bond may be renewed. The Ambassador explained that the effect of this closing down of competition and excessive increase of price of rice was to make the Bombay merchants very unpopular and difficult to protect.

3. I informed him that I would lay the complaint before Your Excellency, and that the only course I could see to be useful was to invite the Colombo agents of the merchants to meet the Ambassador in my office and have a friendly discussion of the question.

No. 286.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to (1) Messrs. Adamaly & Co.: (2) Messrs. T. A. J. Noorbhai & Co.; (3) Messrs. Abdul Hussani Sheik: (4) Mr. M. S. H. Abdulally: and (5) Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee.

No. 1,618. Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, January 24, 1906.

GENTLEMEN,—I AM directed to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor will be glad if you or the head of your firm will meet him at this office at 12 noon on Saturday, January 27, to discuss with the Maldivian Ambassador certain matters connected with the trade of the Maldive Islands.

F. J. SMITH.
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 287.

Messrs. T. A J. Noorbhai & Co. to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colombo, January 26, 1906.

SIR,—WE have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1,618 of 24th instant, desiring the head of our firm to meet His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor at his office on 27th instant, to discuss with the Maldivian Ambassador certain matters connected with the trade of the Maldivian Islands, and in reply we beg to say that owing to other engagements he will find it inconvenient to call at noon, but he would be happy to do so between 2.30 and 3 P.M., if that time would suit your honour.

May we at the same time request your honour to let us know, and submit for our consideration, the certain matters the Maldivian Ambassador wishes to discuss with us in the presence of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, to enable us to come a little prepared for the purpose. This necessity could have been, however, avoided by the Maldivian Ambassador having made us aware of his wishes had he thought fit to do so, as he has been almost daily meeting and writing to us on various subjects.

Unless the Maldivian Ambassador has any particular object in view, or reasons of his own, to have this matter discussed in the presence of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, we may humbly suggest to him to favour us with a call at our office, where he has often been calling before, during office hours any day, during his visits to the Pettah, by or without appointment, and we promise to do our best to discuss the matter more comfortably and freely than we may perhaps be able to do in the presence of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

T. A. J. NOORBHAI & CO.

No. 288.

Messrs. E. G. Adamaly & Co. to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colombo, January 26, 1906.

SIR.—WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1,618 of yesterday's date, and regret to state that the head of the firm, Mr. Esufaly, is indisposed, and the doctor attending on him forbids him from leaving his room, therefore he is unable to call on your honour at the time appointed.

E. G. ADAMALY & CO.

No. 289.

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

Colombo, January 27, 1906.

SIR,—I AM to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of 24th instant. Please let me know the subject the Maldivian Ambassador wants to discuss with me, so that I may know what I am required for; and as this evidently makes it difficult for me to come to-day, please fix another day.

M. S. H. ABDULALLY.

No. 290.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to (1) Messrs. Adamaly & Co.; (2) Messrs. T. A. J. Noorbhai & Co.; (3) Mr. M. S. H. Abdulally; (4) and Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, February 1, 1906.

GENTLEMEN,—I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of January 26, and to state that the Lieutenant-Governor regrets that you were, or the head of your firm was, unable to be present at the interview with the Maldivian Ambassador.

F. J. SMITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 291.

Lieutenant-Governor's Minute of January 27, 1906.

THE firm of A. H. S. Jeevunjee & Co. was represented; and their representative denied all knowledge of the agreement or of any combination to raise prices.

2. I intimated that the Government did not look favourably on such a combination, which was unfair to the people of the Maldives, and that as it expected the Maldivian Government to treat the Bombay merchants fairly, it equally expected the merchants to treat the Maldivians fairly.

No. 292.

Messrs. T. A. J. Noorbhai & Co. to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colombo, February 7, 1906.

SIR,—WE have the honour to own receipt of your favour of 1st instant, acknowledging receipt of ours of 26th ultimo, for which we thank you.

We are, however, still without receiving the information requested in our said letter of 26th ultimo, and beg respectfully to remind you of same. In matters Maldivian we would certainly hesitate to appear before His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor unprepared, particularly in view of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor's misjudged opinion of the Bombay firms *indiscriminately*, as evidenced in his letter No. 26,360 of November 30 last addressed to Messrs. Aitken, Spence & Co.,* and which we may say we take strong exception to the tone of. It is, however, receiving attention.

T. A. J. NOORBHAI & CO.

Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee's Complaint.*

No. 293.

Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee to the Hon. Mr. Abdul Rahiman, M.L.C.

HONOURED SIR,—I HAVE the honour to beg that you will kindly place before His Excellency the Governor the facts herein-stated and obtain for me as speedy justice as possible.

My firm is a well-known one, which has been established in Ceylon for nearly three-quarters of a century. Our business transactions are very extensive, and extend to the Maldives, where we have established ourselves for a very long period.

I received information yesterday from the Maldives that my shop had been forcibly closed, without the slightest provocation for such a course and without any warning. The men responsible for this unheard of outrage on the liberty of a British subject, whose loyalty has been unquestioned, and whose industry has added a large annual sum of over Rs. 300,000 to the coffers of Government, are Ibrahim Didi and his myrmidons.

Ibrahim Didi's brother Abdulla Didi, with an armed escort and other relations of his, entered my shop and forcibly closed the doors, warning my agents not to carry on trade any longer, and not to use the buggalows, the only means of communication with any place outside of the Maldives, for the purpose of carrying my goods. You will see, therefore, that I have been placed in a very serious predicament, as my agents have further been ordered not to use the buggalows for communicating with Colombo or any other port.

Not only has the liberty of a British subject to carry on his trade peaceably and without interference been unjustifiably curtailed, but the rights of British subjects to go wheresoever they will or communicate with whomsoever they please have been trampled on.

When the stores of British merchants were burnt some years ago, Ibrahim Didi, who was suspected of having instigated the incendiarism, was warned that the liberty of British subjects to trade was on no account to be interfered with.

The object of forcibly closing my shops is no doubt the first step towards giving the monopoly of the trade to one firm. Whatever the object might be, the rights of a British subject have been trampled upon by Ibrahim Didi and his satellites, and my trade in the Maldives has been ruined by his action.

Every day's closure of my shop results in a serious loss to me, not only in the sale of my goods, but also in the wages of my agents, who are forced to be idle. Above all, the disgrace which has befallen me is keen, and will tell on my business in Ceylon, as it will result in the loss of reputation and prestige.

In view of the above, I would beg of you to implore His Excellency to see that justice is immediately done, that my rights as a British subject to trade without interference from any man be at once conceded to me by the Maldivians and be never again infringed, and lastly, that some compensation be made to me by the Maldivian Government for the loss I am daily undergoing owing to the forcible closure of my shop and owing to the disgrace which this closure has brought on the firm, and which is bound to affect the patronage of my firm by the Maldivians, a patronage which it will take me some years to enlist again.

Fourth Cross street,
December 11, 1906.

CARIMJEE JAFFERJEE.

No. 294.

The Acting Colonial Secretary's Minute of January 15, 1907.

THE Ambassador is present with his interpreter.

(1) I inquire the nature of the agreement which the Sultan required Carimjee Jafferjee to sign. The agreement has been drawn up in writing. I inform him that it is desirable that the agreement should be reduced to writing, in order that His Excellency may decide whether the conditions are reasonable and such as the Sultan may not improperly impose.

The Ambassador states that he has seen Carimjee and that the agreement has been made, a copy of which he will submit to His Excellency the Governor before he leaves for the Maldives.

The order when the Ambassador left was that Carimjee was not to import any more goods, but since then he has been permitted to do so.

(2) The information as to the intention of Hassan Didi to make an armed raid was heard by a merchant who was travelling from Maldives to Calcutta and stopped at Madras, when he accidentally learnt of the intention of Carimjee to buy a ship and send an expedition. Two sons of Hassan Didi and some other exiled Maldivians are now applying to be allowed to return, and the Ambassador is about to recommend the application to the Sultan.

No. 295.

Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee to the Hon. Mr. Hugh Clifford, C.M.G.

18, Fourth Cross street,
Colombo, September 6, 1907.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to enclose original of an agreement which the Maldivian Ambassador has requested me a few days ago to sign.

I have not the slightest objection to signing any agreement, to show that I have not had anything whatever to do with the troubles in the Maldives, but I beg to bring to your honour's notice that the agreement places too great power in the hands of the Maldivian Government.

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* See also No. 310.

According to the agreement as drawn on, the Maldivian Government, whose methods are not yet quite civilized, will use the agreement for ruining my business, and I would beg that the agreement be altered so that the Ceylon Government could first inquire into any complaints against me and then prohibit my trade in the Maldives.

As the agreement stands, if the Maldivian Government on some frivolous complaint chooses to prohibit my trade and delay to refer the matter to the Ceylon Government, the delay will result in complete ruin to my trade. It is therefore impossible for me to sign the proposed agreement, unless the last paragraph is altered, and the Maldivian Government required to refer to your honour any evidence of my helping Maldivian refugees in Ceylon to create trouble in the Maldives, and then if the evidence is strong my trade could be prohibited.

CARIMJEE JAFFERJEE.

Agreement.

Memorandum of an agreement made this ——— day of ———, 1907, between E. Abdul Hamid Effendi, Maldivian Ambassador, acting for and on behalf of the Government of His Highness the Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, hereinafter called the Sultan of the Maldives, on the one part, and the firm of Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee, Bombay merchant, on the other part, is as follows:—

That whereas the Sultan of the Maldives considers it expedient that Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee should enter into an agreement with His Highness as regards his trade with Maldives, it is hereby agreed by Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee that he will not render any help or assistance to any enemy of the Maldivian Government who may be disposed to plot against His Highness' throne, provided, however, that such help or assistance shall not include any little gifts of charity which any human being, particularly a generous Muslim, might render to the poor.

2. That so long as Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee abides by this agreement, the Sultan will allow and guarantee unto him all the privileges of a trader hitherto enjoyed by him.

3. But when Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee infringes this agreement and renders help and assistance to an enemy of the Sultan of the Maldives, His Highness reserves unto himself the right of prohibiting his trade and submitting the matter to the decision of the Government of Ceylon.

No. 296.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, September 20, 1907.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of September 6, regarding an agreement which the Maldivian Ambassador has requested you to sign in connection with your trade with the Maldives, I am directed to state that you are at liberty to do what you think best in the matter, and your application to vary the proposed terms of the agreement should be addressed to the Maldivian authorities.

2. The agreement is herewith returned.

F. J. SMITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

Postal Communication with the Maldives.

No. 297.

Memorandum dated January 9, 1906.

THE Maldivian Ambassador, at a personal interview with the Lieutenant-Governor on January 9, 1906, stated that the Maldivian Government proposes to establish a Post Office at Malé for a regular mail service between it and Colombo.

No. 298.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

Miscellaneous.—No. 82.

The Queen's House, Colombo,
Ceylon, February 21, 1906.

MY LORD,—I HAVE the honour to forward, for Your Lordship's information, the enclosed copies of correspondence relating to the establishment of a mail service between Colombo and the Maldive Islands.

2. The arrangements were made at the request of the Maldivian Government, conveyed through their Ambassador in January last. They involve the overprinting of the Ceylon 6-cent stamp with the word "Maldives," an arrangement which I dislike, but do not see my way to dispense with. I have issued instructions that great care be taken to secure that all overprinted stamps actually reach the Maldivian Government.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 298.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Postmaster-General.

No. 11.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, January 9, 1906.

SIR,—I AM directed to inform you that this letter will be handed to you by Mr. E. Abdul Hamid Didi, the Maldivian Ambassador.

2. The Maldivian Government proposes to establish a Post Office at Malé for a regular mail service between it and Colombo, and the Maldivian Ambassador desires to interview you with regard to the proposal. I am to request you to be good enough to give him all possible information on the subject.

F. J. SMITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 298.

The Postmaster-General to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

No. 33.

Postmaster-General's Office,
Colombo, January 12, 1906.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 11 of the 9th instant, and to inform you that I have discussed with the Maldivian Ambassador the question of the establishment of a Post Office at Malé, and have arranged that he shall be supplied with an abridgement of the Post Office regulations and be as far as possible instructed in the practical working of a Post Office. It would be better if the man who is to be postmaster at Malé were sent here to learn his work; but this, the Ambassador says, is not possible.

2. Details will be arranged as early as possible: and in this connection I beg to be informed whether there is any objection to the Maldivian Post Office being supplied with Ceylon postage stamps for sale. The Ambassador informed me that if necessary the Maldivian Government would pay the cost of manufacture of special stamps, and in 1901, when a former Ambassador called upon me, I was informed that the Maldivian Government would like to have their own design, and promised to send me a drawing, which he never did. It would be cheaper for them to use Ceylon stamps, perhaps overprinted "Maldive Islands."

H. L. MOYSEY,
Postmaster-General.

Enclosure No. 3 in No. 298.

The Postmaster-General to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

No. 63.

Postmaster-General's Office,
Colombo, January 26, 1906.

SIR,—IN continuation of my letter No. 33 dated 12th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the Maldivian Ambassador has been shown and instructed in the work of the Post Office connected with letters and parcels.

2. A set of regulations and instructions for carrying on a postal service between the Maldive Islands and Ceylon have been drawn up, and a copy is submitted herewith for approval. They are

necessarily as simple as possible to meet the special circumstances. The rates of postage proposed are the same as to India. If the regulations are accepted, they should be signed perhaps by accredited officers of both the Ceylon and the Maldivian Governments.

3. To complete the arrangements and to put the service into operation, the Maldivian Government must obtain postage stamps and postal stores. As regards the postage stamps—certainly as a temporary measure, and possibly as a permanent method—the course least open to objection appears to be to overprint a supply of Ceylon stamps with the words "Maldive Islands," and sell them to that Government at cost of paper and printing. Such stamps would be valid for articles posted in the Maldive Islands only, and the revenue from the sale at face value would provide the Maldives with the means to defray the cost of the Malé Post Office and the conveyance of mails to Ceylon. The postal stores could be supplied by this Department on payment.

4. It is understood that the Maldivian Ambassador returns to Malé next week. As neither the postage stamps nor the stores could be gathered together at such short notice, it is suggested that he be requested to deposit a sum to cover the value—Rs. 250 would suffice—and the stamps and stores would be forwarded to Malé with an account of their cost as soon as possible.

5. I am in communication with the owners of the buggalows trading between the Maldives and Ceylon, and anticipate no difficulty in arranging for the conveyance of the mails. As soon as the stamps and stores arrive at Malé the service could be commenced.

H. L. MOYSEY,
Postmaster-General.

Regulations for Postal Communication between Ceylon and the Maldive Islands.

1. *Limits of Postal Service.*—The Postal Service shall be limited at present to the exchange of letters, post cards, printed matter, and parcels.

2. *Classification of Postal Articles.*—A "letter" may be any packet wholly or partly in writing, sealed or fastened so as to prevent the contents being examined without breaking the seal or fastening. No letter may exceed 18 inches in length, 9 inches in width, or 6 inches in depth.

A "post card" means either an official post card with the stamp printed on it, or a card of similar size and material to the official post card with the words "Post Card" printed or written upon it. At least one-half of one side of the card must be reserved for the address. Any infringement of these conditions shall render the card liable to the same postage as a letter.

"Printed matter" shall include all documents in writing or in print not in the nature of a private communication posted in open covers, which admit the removal and inspection of the contents without injury to the wrapper. A packet of printed matter must not exceed 2 feet in length and 1 foot in breadth or depth.

"Parcels" must not exceed 11 lb. in weight and 3½ feet in length, or 6 feet in length and girth combined.

3. *Prohibited Articles.*—The under-mentioned articles may not be transmitted by post:—(*a*) Bank or currency notes, gold, silver, jewellery, or current coin; (*b*) indecent or obscene prints, pictures, or communications; (*c*) explosives; noxious, dangerous, or deleterious substances; filth; sharp instruments unprotected; live creatures; anything likely to injure the contents of the mail bag or any officer of the Post Office.

4. The following articles may not be sent to Ceylon:—Arms, ammunition, and utensils of war by way of merchandise, except by license or authority of the Governor; parts sent separately of articles which are liable to Customs duty; ganja; and bhang.

5. The following articles may be sent as parcels only, on condition that they are packed with special care in strong boxes and hermetically sealed:—Liquids, glass, china, crockery, eggs, fruit, fish, meat, butter, &c.

6. No postal packet, whether letter or parcel, may contain articles addressed to more than one person, nor any article to an address other than that on the outer cover.

7. No article liable to Customs duty may be sent by "letter" post.

8. The rates of postage shall be the same in both directions, viz:—

	Cents.
Letters, per ½ oz.	5
Post cards, each	2
Printed matter { First 4 oz.	2
Printed matter { Each additional 2 oz.	2
Parcels not exceeding ½ lb.	20*
Parcels not exceeding 1 lb.	25*
Each additional lb. up to 11 lb.	15

* These rates include 10 cents for registration, which is compulsory.

9. Letters, post cards, and printed matter may be registered for a fee of 10 cents per article in addition to the postage. Articles to be registered must be handed to the proper officer at the post office and a receipt obtained.

10. *Prepayment by Postage Stamps.*—Postage must be prepaid by means of postage stamps affixed to the postal article. Articles which are posted without postage stamps or with insufficient postage stamps are charged double the deficiency, and the amount is collected from the addressee before delivery. Should the addressee not be found, or refuse to pay, the article is returned to the office at which it was posted, and the amount is recoverable from the sender.

11. *Undelivered Articles.*—Postal articles not delivered within two months from date of receipt at the delivering post office must be returned to the country of posting for return to the senders.

12. *Addressing.*—All postal articles must be addressed legibly and clearly with the name of the addressee, the number of the house, and name of the street in which he resides, and the name of the nearest post town.

13. *Responsibility.*—The Governments are not responsible for any loss or inconvenience which may arise from damage, non-delivery, late delivery, mis-sending, or mis-delivery of any postal article, whether registered or not registered. No post officer is responsible for any loss or damage, &c., unless such loss or damage, &c., is caused by his negligence, malice, or fraud.

14. *Mail Vessels.*—The mail service shall be carried on by means of buggalows or other convenient vessels clearing at Colombo or Galle for Malé, and at Malé for Colombo or Galle.

15. The master of the vessel shall be paid for the conveyance of mails in advance at the time of despatch at the following rates:—Letters and post cards, Re. 1·50 per lb.; printed matter, 10 cents per lb.; parcels, 5 cents per lb.

16. The master of every vessel employed for the conveyance of mails in this service shall be supplied with a copy of clause 24 of the Ceylon Postal Ordinance, No. 13 of 1892.

Exemption from Postage.—The only articles exempt from the usual charge for postage shall be the necessary letters and other articles posted by the postal authorities for carrying on the service

Clause 24 of the Ceylon Postal and Telegraph Ordinance, No. 12 of 1898.

24. On the arrival of any vessel off any port on the coast of Ceylon, the master or person in chief command thereof shall cause all postal packets on board which are addressed to or destined for such port to be collected, and at the first port at which any such vessel shall touch or arrive, or with which it shall communicate otherwise than by signal, shall send the same on shore by his own boat, or by the pilot boat, or any other safe and convenient opportunity, in order that the same may be delivered at the first regular post office which can be communicated with, and such master or person shall, at the regular port or place at which the vessel shall report, sign a declaration in the presence of the person authorized in that behalf by the Postmaster-General at such port or place, who shall also sign the same; and the declaration shall be in form or to the effect following, that is to say:—

"I, *A. B.*, commander of the (state the name of the ship or vessel), arrived from (state the place), &c., as required by law, declare that I have to the best of my knowledge and belief, delivered or caused to be delivered to the post office every postal packet posted for Ceylon that was on board the (state the name of the vessel)."

In case such declaration shall be false, the person making the same shall be guilty of an offence, and be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred rupees.

Instructions for the Malé Post Office.

1. *Method of Posting.*—A letter box should be fixed at the post office into which the public may post letters, post cards, and printed matter, after having affixed postage stamps of sufficient value to pay for the postage. Letters to be registered and parcels must not be placed in this box, but must be handed to the postmaster, who is required to give the sender a numbered receipt for each article.

2. The letter box should be kept locked. The postmaster himself should keep the key, and clear the box himself when a mail is to be despatched.

3. *Despatch of Postal Articles.*—When the box is opened, the postage stamps on the articles posted should be at once examined to see whether the stamps affixed are genuine, that they have not previously been used, and that they are of sufficient value to defray the postage at the rates fixed for that particular class of article.

4. Articles found in the box without any postage stamps, or with insufficient stamps, must nevertheless be forwarded in the mail for delivery to the addressee. They must be marked with the "T" stamp, and double the amount of the deficiency will be collected from the addressee. The amounts so collected are retained by the office of collection and paid into the revenue of the country of collection.

5. If forged, or previously used stamps are found, the article may be opened if necessary for the purpose of finding the sender, who should be dealt with according to law or at the discretion of the Government.

6. Postage stamps on articles to be forwarded in the mail should be defaced by the post office date stamp on the date the box is opened.

7. If the name and address on the article is written in the Maldivian language, a translation into English must be made by the postmaster on the face of the article in red ink.

8. The articles must then be sorted into two divisions, viz., (1) letters and post cards and (2) printed matter, each division tied up into a separate bundle with string, and weighed. The weight should be recorded on the letter-bill.

9. Articles upon which the "T" stamp has been placed should be tied up into a separate bundle, and the number recorded against the line for unpaid letters in the letter-bill.

10. The articles should then be placed in a mail bag. Mail bags should be examined before use to see that there are no holes in them, and that they are strong and sound. They must also be turned inside out before use, to see that no letters belonging to a previous mail have been accidentally left inside.

11. The mail bag will now be ready to receive the registered letters and parcels. The registered letters must always be placed in the same bag as the ordinary letters. Parcels may be sent in the same bag as the letters if there is space: if not, they must be despatched in separate bags or boxes or baskets.

12. *Registration.*—Letters, post cards, and printed matter intended to be registered must have the word "Registered" written on the top of the side on which the address is written: the special charge of 10 cents per article must be prepaid in stamps; and the article itself must be handed by the sender to the postmaster, who must give a receipt for it. Articles upon which the word "Registered" is written, but which have been found in the letter box, or for which no receipt has been given, must be returned to the sender.

13. The postmaster must give a receipt from the receipt book of forms. Each form of receipt in the book of forms must be numbered consecutively, and receipts must be written in duplicate by means of carbon paper. One copy is retained in the book, the other is given to the sender. Both copies must bear the same consecutive number.

14. The article must then be stamped with the "R" stamp, and two lines drawn across the address in transverse directions, thus—

Registered



Registered articles must be kept under lock and key until a mail is to be despatched.

15. *Despatch of Registered Articles.*—When a mail is to be despatched, the registered articles received must be entered in consecutive order in the Registered Letter List, and also in the duplicate of that list, headed "Registered Letters Forwarded," and the signature of the despatching officer affixed. The lists should be checked with the receipt book by a second officer, who should initial both forms. The Registered Letter List must be retained in the office, but the portion of the form headed "Registered Letters Forwarded" must be carefully torn off, placed in an envelope, and tied up with the registered articles. The registered bundle must be weighed and the weight recorded in the letter-bill, together with the weights of the other bundles. See clause 8.

16. Registered articles must be placed in the small special yellow bags provided for that purpose, and the bagging should be done in the presence of two officers, viz., the officer who made up the list and the officer who checked that list with the receipt book.

17. The registered bag must have a label tied round the neck, and the string having been tightly drawn, and securely tied, must be sealed over the knot, and again on the string at the opposite side.

18. The registered bag must then be placed in the mail bag with the other articles and an entry made on the letter-bill.

19. *Posting of Parcels.*—As stated in clause 1, parcels must be handed to the postmaster for despatch. Before accepting a parcel for despatch the postmaster must require the sender to fill in a form of Customs Declaration, in which a true description of the contents and their value must be given, over the signature of the sender. The Customs officers in Ceylon have power to open all parcels, and all dutiable articles not properly declared are liable to confiscation.

20. The postmaster must then assure himself that the parcel is strongly packed, and that postage stamps to prepay the full postage due at the fixed rates have been affixed to the parcel, and that it is fully and clearly addressed. He will then prepare a receipt for the parcel.

21. The receipt is prepared in duplicate by means of the carbon paper in the special form provided for parcels. In addition to the name and address of the addressee, the weight, the declared value as stated on the Customs Declaration, and the value of postage paid must be stated on the receipt, which is then signed by the postmaster—one copy handed to the sender and the other retained in the book. The postmaster must then paste the Customs Declaration on the parcel, taking care not to cover any portion of the address, and place the parcel under lock and key until a mail is to be despatched.

22. *Despatch of Parcels.*—When a mail is to be despatched, the postmaster should enter on a parcel-bill form a list of the parcels forwarded, making the entries from the receipt book. Each parcel-bill must be numbered consecutively, and each parcel on the bill must also be numbered consecutively. These numbers must then be entered on the receipt form.

23. The parcel-bill should be written in duplicate by means of carbon paper and signed by the despatching officer.

24. When the entries have all been made on the parcel-bill, they should be checked with the parcels themselves by a second officer, who should initial the bill.

25. One copy of the bill should be enclosed in an envelope addressed to the Chief Clerk, Parcel Post Branch, General Post Office, Colombo, and enclosed with the parcels in a separate bag, which should bear a label, and be tied and sealed in the same manner as a registered bag. The parcel bag should be placed inside the letter bag if there is room. If not, it may be sent separately and entered on the way-bill.

26. The letter-bill should now be signed and stamped with the date stamp and be placed loose inside the mail bag. A label written—

"Mails for Colombo"

must be securely tied round the neck of the bag and a seal placed on the knot, and another seal on the string on the opposite side of the neck. Letter-bills must be numbered in consecutive order, and must be prepared in duplicate by means of carbon paper, one copy being retained in the office.

27. The number of bag or bags should now be entered on a way-bill and given to the master of the vessel for conveyance to Colombo, who must be warned to preserve the mails from injury from water or any other cause and under his own personal observation or under lock and key, also that he must deliver them at the post office to which they are addressed immediately on arrival and obtain a receipt from the postmaster.

28. *Receipt of Mails.*—The masters of vessels conveying mails to Malé are required to deliver them to the postmaster at that place, together with way-bill issued by the despatching office in Ceylon.

29. The postmaster must check the number of the bags delivered with the number entered on the way-bill, and must immediately examine the seals and the bags to see that they have not been tampered with in transit.

30. The bags should then be opened and the contents verified with the entries on the letter and parcel-bills. If there are any discrepancies in the entries on the letter-bill, they should immediately be noted on the bill and reported to the Chief Postmaster, General Post Office, Colombo, by the next mail despatched from Malé. If there are discrepancies on the parcel-bill, or if the parcels have been damaged in transit, a report on a Verification Certificate should be made and posted to the Chief Clerk, Parcel Post Branch, General Post Office, Colombo, also by the next mail.

31. The numbers of the letter and parcel-bills must be compared with the last bills received from the same office of despatch, to see that the mail is the next due, and that no mail has been lost or miscarried or undelivered.

32. The letters, post cards, and printed matter received should then be stamped with the office date stamp on the back of the cover and delivered as soon as possible free of any charge.

33. If a yellow registered bag is received in the mail, the postmaster must take particular care that the seals and bag are in good order, and show no signs of having been opened in transit. The bag should then be opened by cutting the string between the seals, and the contents should be at once verified carefully with the entries on the Registered Letter List which will be found inside. This list must at once be signed by the receiving officer and placed in an envelope ready for return to the office from which it was received by the next mail.

34. The registered articles must then be stamped with the date of receipt on the back and entered in a book. Receipt forms should be prepared for each article, which must be signed by the addressee when the article is delivered. The receipt of the addressee should be carefully filed in the post office for reference in case of subsequent inquiry.

35. Receipts should also be obtained from the addressees of parcels when they are delivered and retained in the office for reference.

36. *Undelivered Articles.*—All postal articles that remain undelivered two months after the date of receipt should be returned to the post office from which they were received. Registered letters and parcels so returned must be entered in registered letter lists and parcel-bills with the remark against them "Returned undelivered."

Enclosure No. 4 in No. 298.

The Postmaster-General to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

No. 82.

Postmaster-General's Office,
Colombo, February 2, 1906.

SIR,—In continuation of my letter No. 63 dated 26th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that a sum of Rs. 250 has been received from the Maldivian Ambassador and deposited in this office on account of postal stores.

W. C. MACREADY,
for Postmaster-General.

Enclosure No. 5 in No. 298.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Postmaster-General.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, February 12, 1906.

SIR,—I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 63 of January 26 regarding the establishment of postal communication between Ceylon and the Maldive Islands.

2. In reply, I am to forward for your information the accompanying copy of a letter addressed to the Maldivian Ambassador; and I am to request you to arrange to purchase and forward to the Maldives the necessary postal stores and a supply of postage stamps. You should in communication with the Government Printer have the stamps overprinted "Maldives." Great care must be taken that all stamps so overprinted are actually sent to and received by the Maldivian Government. The Government Printer will be directed to pay special attention to the overprinting and to see that the type, position, &c., are maintained strictly uniform.

F. J. SMITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

Sub-Enclosure in Enclosure No. 5 in No. 298.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to E. Abdul Hamid Didi Effendi, Maldivian Ambassador.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, February 10, 1906.

SIR,—WITH reference to the interview you had with the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject of postal communication between Ceylon and the Maldive Islands, I am directed to forward to you herewith a set of regulations and instructions drawn up by the Postmaster-General of this Colony for a postal service with the Maldive Islands. These regulations and instructions are approved by the Ceylon Government, and I am to request you to state whether they are approved by you on behalf of the Maldivian Government.

2. The Postmaster-General reports that to complete the arrangements for the postal service and to put it into operation the Maldivian Government must obtain postage stamps and postal stores. As regards postage stamps, it is proposed that a supply of Ceylon stamps be overprinted with the word "Maldives" and sold to the Maldivian Government at the cost of paper and printing. Such stamps would be valid for articles posted in the Maldive Islands only, and the revenue from their sale at face value would probably provide the Maldivian Government with the means to defray the cost of the Malé Post Office and the conveyance of mails to Ceylon. The postal stores can be supplied by the Postal Department of this Colony on payment.

3. A sum of Rs. 250 would perhaps suffice for the first supply of postage stamps and stores, and I am to request you to be good enough to remit this amount to the Postmaster-General, or undertake that it shall be paid. The Postmaster-General will forward the stamps and stores to Malé with an account of their cost as soon as possible.

F. J. SMITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 299.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,
to Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G.

Ceylon.—No. 99. Downing street, March 28, 1906.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 82 of February 21, reporting as to the arrangements which have been made for establishing a mail service between Ceylon and the Maldive Islands.

I have, &c.,
ELGIN.

No. 300.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar,
Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, December 18, 1906.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—WITH reference to the postal communication between this Island and the Maldive Islands established in the early part of this year, I have the honour to inform you that the present system whereby the Ceylon Government supplies your Government with Ceylon stamps surcharged with the word "Maldives" at the actual cost of the stamps is found to be inconvenient.

2. Under these circumstances, I would suggest that you should use unsurcharged Ceylon stamps, and that the Ceylon Government should sell these stamps to your Government at the face value.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE.

(38)

No. 301.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

Translation.

MAY Your Excellency prosper.

WE are in receipt of your letter of December 18 last. We come to understand from it that Your Excellency does not consider it convenient to supply our Government with Ceylon stamps surcharged "Maldives" at cost price, and that hereafter we should use unsurcharged Ceylon stamps, which will be supplied to us at face value.

2. In reply, we beg to inform you that the adoption of this proposal will entail on our Government great expenses and trouble. The parties who mostly require postage stamps are the resident foreign traders. They get their stamps from Ceylon, and it is plain that they will revert to their old system.

3. We request that the present system may be continued, or, if that cannot be, postage stamps for Maldives may be specially made for the use of our Government.

We await Your Excellency's decision in the matter.

Malé, Palace, 17th Safar, 1325.
(April 1, 1907.)

M. SAMS-UD-DIN ISKANDAR.

No. 302.

His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The King's Pavilion,
Kandy, May 15, 1907.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 17th Safar, 1325, corresponding to April 1, 1907, of the Christian era, on the subject of the supply of Ceylon stamps to your Government in connection with the system of postal communication between Ceylon and the Maldive Islands.

2. In reply, I have to inform you that under the circumstances represented by Your Highness I propose that your Government should be supplied with Ceylon stamps at cost price, provided such stamps are not overprinted or surcharged in any way by the Maldivian postal authorities.

3. I shall be glad to know if Your Highness agrees to this proposal.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE.

No. 303.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY Your Excellency prosper.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of May 15 last, proposing to supply our Government with Ceylon postage stamps at cost price, provided the stamps are not overprinted or surcharged.

2. In reply, we beg to inform Your Excellency that we agree to the proposal, and, at the same time, to submit that this arrangement will entail some grave difficulties; the stamps cannot be sold beforehand to purchasers; an officer of the Postal Department will have to be always at his seat to receive the stamp value on each letter to be posted.

3. We have instructed our Ambassador, Abdul Hamid Didi, who is now in Colombo, to explain in detail the difficulties entailed by the proposed arrangement.

4. We request that instructions may issue to the Postmaster-General to supply our Government, as early as possible, with stamps as per indent of September 26, which will be presented by our Ambassador.

Malé, Palace, 20th Sahban, 1325.
(September 29, 1907.)

M. SAMS-UD-DIN ISKANDAR.

No. 304.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Crewe, K.G.

Miscellaneous.—No. 54.

The Queen's House, Colombo,
Ceylon, January 28, 1908.

MY LORD,—IN continuation of my predecessor's despatch No. 82 of February 21, 1906,* which was acknowledged by Your Lordship's despatch No. 99 dated March 28, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Berne authorities, copies of the correspondence with regard to the introduction of a separate set of postage stamps to be used by the people of the Maldive Islands.

2. The indent for the various denominations of stamps required will be forwarded to the Crown Agents in due course, and they will at the same time be asked to have the necessary dies prepared.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

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* See No. 298.

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Enclosure No. 1 in No. 304.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, October 22, 1907.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—IN reply to your letter dated the 20th Sahban, 1325, corresponding to September 29, 1907, of the Christian era, regarding the supply of Ceylon stamps to your Government in connection with the system of postal communication between Ceylon and the Maldive Islands, I have the honour to inform Your Highness that in view of the difficulty pointed out in your letter, the proposal made in my predecessor's letter of May 15, 1907, to supply your Government with Ceylon stamps at cost price, provided such stamps are not overprinted or surcharged in any way by the Maldivian postal authorities, is inadvisable.

2. I have very carefully considered this matter, and I think the only system which would work smoothly would be for your Government to have its own stamps; and I would suggest to Your Highness that you should have stamps struck from a die of your own for the purpose of Maldivian postage.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 304.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—WE have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 22 last on the subject of postage stamps, informing us that you have very carefuly considered the matter, and that the only system that would work well for the Maldivian Government is to have its own stamps struck from a die of its own. We are quite in accord with your opinion.

2. We have accordingly sent to our Ambassador, Abdul Hamid Didi, a pattern to be adopted for Maldivian postage stamps, with instructions to submit the same to your Government and to explain our views fully, it being our desire to have the work done through the Ceylon Government.

3. Meanwhile we trust that the present postal communication will continue uninterrupted, and we have further directed our Ambassador to consult with your Government on measures to be adopted therefor.

May Your Excellency live long!

M. SAMS-UD-DIN.

Palace, Malé, 22nd Savval, 1325.
(November 29, 1907.)

No. 305.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Crewe, K.G.

Miscellaneous.—No. 147.

The Queen's Cottage, Nuwara Eliya,
Ceylon, March 22, 1908.

MY LORD,—WITH reference to my despatch No. 54* of January 28 last, I have the honour to forward for Your Lordship's information the accompanying copy of a letter I have addressed the Sultan of the Maldive Islands on the subject of the supply of stamps for the Maldivian Government.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

Enclosure in No. 305.

His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, March 13, 1908.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—WITH reference to your letter dated the 22nd Sawwal, 1325, corresponding to November 29, 1907, of the Christian era, on the subject of the supply of stamps to your Government, I have the honour to inform Your Highness that I have given careful consideration to the question of the cost of printing separate stamps for your purposes.

2. Most of the postage stamps in use in Ceylon are printed by the key-plate system, in which one working key-die and one key-plate are used with separate duty-plates for the values. I think that this system would be the best to adopt for printing the stamps required by your Government. The key-die costs £50, the key-plate £42 10*s.*, and each duty-plate £12.

3. The rates of postage from the Maldives should be, to Ceylon and India, Ceylon inland rates; to other countries, Postal Union rates. In accordance with this proposal, 2 cents, 5 cents, and 10 cents stamps only will be required for postage to Ceylon and India, and for postage to other countries there will be required in addition a 3 cents stamp, making four denominations of stamps in all. The total cost of the dies, &c., for these four denominations will therefore be, key-die, £50; key-plate, £42 10*s.*; 4 duty-plates at £12 each, £48; total, £140 10*s.*, equivalent to Rs. 2,107·50 at Rs. 15 to the £1 sterling.

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* See No. 304.

4. As regards the designs of the stamps. Those handed in by Your Highness' Ambassador (which are herewith returned) appear to have the words "Post Office, Maldives," on the left hand edge, and the value in cents on the lower edge, and some figures in the corner, which are difficult to read. I would propose for Your Highness' consideration that the stamps should be designed as follows :—

(a)	(1)	(a)
(3)	Minaret. Arabic Inscription.	(4)
(a)	(2)	(a)

(1) Maldive Islands in Arabic letters
(2) Value of stamp in Arabic letters.
(3) Maldive Islands in English letters.
(4) Value of stamp in English letters.

The value of the stamp should also be denoted in ordinary Arabic figures in each of the four corners marked (a). The colour of the 2 cents and 5 cents stamps should be the same as the Ceylon stamps of these values. The colour of the 3 cents stamp should be the green required by the Postal Union, and the colour of the 10 cents stamp should be red, but somewhat different from the Ceylon 6 cents stamp.

5. I shall be glad to learn whether Your Highness approves of the above proposals; if so, will you kindly forward complete specimens of the stamps, and furnish me with information as to what quantities of stamps will be required. The Postmaster-General estimates that for purely postage purposes an annual supply of 5,000 stamps of 2 cents, 2,000 of 3 cents, 12,000 of 5 cents, and 3,000 of 10 cents will be required; but supplies will also be required for sale to collectors, for which there is certain to be a demand.

6. In connection with this supply of stamps to collectors, I have to inform Your Highness that numerous complaints have reached my Government from stamp collectors, who say they have remitted money to the Maldives for the purchase of stamps, but have not received their stamps, while their remittances have not always been returned to them. To prevent any further trouble of this kind, I would suggest that your Government should appoint an agent in Colombo to receive on its behalf all stamps that are required, and to arrange for the transport to the Maldives of such stamps as are required for postal purposes, and to conduct the sale of Maldivian stamps to stamp collectors and others who may wish to purchase them for purposes other than postal.

7. I do not think it will be advisable for your post office to undertake the delivery or despatch of registered letters.

8. The Crown Agents for the Colonies will be asked to have the necessary dies prepared at the cost of your Government as soon as I hear that Your Highness approves the proposals now made, and also to have the stamps struck off, when the supply of Ceylon stamped stationery to the Maldives will cease, and the Maldivian Government should indent for their supplies of stamps and postal stores direct to the makers in England.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

No. 306.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives,
to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY Your Excellency prosper evermore!

WE beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 13 last on the subject of postage stamps, and to express our full approval of the die and key-plate system recommended by you as most suitable to our Government. We also approve the prices and colours adopted for the four kinds of stamps.

As regards the quantity of stamps required by us, we have sent our instructions on the subject to Ameer Abdul Hamid Didi, our representative in Colombo.

As to the complaints by some stamp collectors who remitted money to us, but failed to get stamps in lieu, we beg to inform you that we were desired by them to retain the sums with us until such time as the stamps become available. When your Government subsequently decided not to issue the stamps as before (*i.e.*, surcharged "Maldives"), we promptly returned the several sums to the parties concerned.

In accordance with your recommendation that our Government should appoint an agent for the disposal of the stamps, we have authorized our aforesaid representative in Colombo to conduct the business.

As regards the system of registration of letters, we beg to inform you that we regard it as indispensable both to our Government and to the foreign merchants. We are desirous that the system should be adopted. We trust that, with the help of God, the system will work well on the usual conditions and without any difficulty.

In conclusion, we pray for Your Excellency's long life and prosperity.

M. SAMS-UD-DIN.

Palace, Malé, 13th Rabiuttani, 1326.
(May 15, 1908.)

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No. 307.

His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, June 24, 1908.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 13th Rabiuttani, 1326, corresponding to May 15, 1908, of the Christian era, on the subject of postage stamps for your dominions.

2. As Your Highness considers registration indispensable, I will raise no objection to its continuance, but you will be so good as to understand that the Postmaster-General will have to notify the Chief Office of the Postal Union through the London General Post Office that the Ceylon Government cannot accept any responsibility as far as the transit of letters between Ceylon and the Maldives is concerned, as the Maldives are outside the Union.

3. I have noted your remarks regarding the action taken in the matter of remittances received from stamp collectors.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

No. 308.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to the Crown Agents.

No. 1,520.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, December 17, 1908.

GENTLEMEN,—WITH reference to your letter No. 896 D of November 10 with regard to the supply of stamps for the Maldivian Government, I am directed to state that as the Ceylon Government does not interfere in the internal affairs of the Maldive Islands, the supply of stamps required by that Government will be obtained by them direct from the manufacturers, and I am therefore to request you to be good enough to hand over the die and plates to the keeping of Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

A. G. CLAYTON,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 309.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to E. Abdul Hamid Didi Effendi.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, December 22, 1908.

SIR,—ADVERTING to my letter of September 5, 1908, I am directed to inform you that the Crown Agents for the Colonies report under date November 10, 1908, that the plates for printing the Maldivian stamps are on the point of completion.

2. I am accordingly to state that you may now forward your indent for stamps direct to the manufacturers, Messrs. De La Rue & Co., and deal direct with them as to payments, &c.

A. R. SLATER,
for Colonial Secretary.

Visit of H. M. S. "Perseus," January, 1907.

No. 310.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

Confidential.

The King's Pavilion, Kandy,
Ceylon, January 22, 1907.

My Lord,—I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that on the 2nd instant I received the Maldivian Ambassador, who paid his annual visit, bearing from the Sultan the usual tribute.

2. On December 29 last I received the enclosed memorial* from Mr. Carimjee Jafferjee, a respectable merchant of Colombo, who has for some time been one of the principal traders at Malé.

3. The local politics of the Maldive Islands are simple. The Sultans have not been men of action, and the practical government of the islands is in the hands of the Prime Minister for the time being: that office has been, for the last twenty-six years at least, held by one or other of the members of the family of Didi.

4. On the deposition of the Sultan Muhammad Imad-ud-din by a peaceful revolution in March, 1903, and the acknowledgment of the present Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din by His Majesty's Government, Ibrahim Didi, who had been disgraced in 1899, again obtained supreme power; the result of his accession to power was the banishment of Hassan Didi, who, although he had participated in the removal of the Sultan in 1903, represented the old Conservative party in Malé. He, however, escaped from the atoll to which he had been banished and retired to Colombo, where he was not improbably engaged in intrigues against the present administration of the Maldive Islands.

5. On December 8 I received a letter from the Sultan, of which I enclose a copy,† stating that he apprehended an attempt at revolution by an armed expedition that was to sail from India. I communicated with the Madras Government, and from their inquiries I have no doubt that the information given to the Sultan was incorrect. However, at my request, H. M. S. "Perseus" was directed by the Naval Commander-in-Chief, Vice-Admiral Sir E. Poe, to pay a visit to the Maldive Islands. The "Perseus" has now returned, and I enclose a copy of the report of the Commander.

6. Hassan Didi died in Colombo on December 12 last, and this external source of trouble is therefore removed. I think it possible that Mr. Jafferjee may have been involved in some proposed movement to oust Ibrahim Didi, the present Prime Minister, but there is no evidence of such collusion, if indeed such a movement has been proposed.

7. After my formal reception of the Ambassador, who is a son of Ibrahim Didi, I had a conversation with him on the subject of Mr. Jafferjee's complaint, and advised him to inform the Prime Minister that such an arbitrary interference with the trading rights of a British subject was quite inadmissible. I said that I proposed to refer Mr. Jafferjee to the Sultan in the first instance, and that I had no doubt that, on consideration, the Prime Minister would advise His Highness to cancel the order of expulsion and permit him to continue in the peaceable prosecution of his business, as any other course might be productive of unpleasantness. The Ambassador said that he had no doubt that the course suggested by me would be followed. The fact that the fear of movement from outside has been removed by the death of Hassan Didi will doubtless conduce to a peaceful settlement.

8. The Maldive Islands are very prosperous at present, and the health of Malé has improved, the advice given by Dr. Jones on the occasion of the visit of H. M. S. "Proserpine" in 1905‡ as to the proper protection of wells having been to a large extent followed.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE.

Enclosure in No. 310.

Report of Commander H. Christian, H. M. S. "Perseus."

H. M. S. "Perseus," at Colombo,
January 10, 1907.

Sir,—I have the honour to report that by order of my Commander-in-Chief I visited Malé in the Maldive Islands on Sunday, 6th instant, saluting with seventeen guns on arrival. After the salute had been returned I landed with the Prime Minister and his son, and paid an official call on the Sultan, which was returned next day by His Highness himself.

2. His Highness, who was attended by his three brothers, his ministers, and a large suite, spent some time on board seeing the ship and appeared to enjoy himself very much. Prior to his departure he informed me through his Prime Minister that before he went he should like to have a talk with me. I therefore again took him into my fore cabin, where he told me the story known to Your Excellency of his fears of an intended invasion of the island. He added that since the death of Hassan Didi, which I understand has lately occurred in hospital in Ceylon, and whom he described as the late Admiral of the Maldives, his fears had been set at rest. He also asked me to convey to Your Excellency his complete satisfaction with the assurance you have given him as to the present *status quo* being maintained.

3. I submit that His Highness the Sultan, though a man of about twenty-six years of age, is a mere child in his thoughts, acts, and fears, and a puppet in the hands of that apparently strong and able man, Ibrahim Didi Effendi, his Prime Minister, whose power appears to be supreme.

4. Great satisfaction was evinced by His Royal Highness and his ministers at the visit of this ship. There is I think no doubt that their fear of a raid was real and genuine, and that their hands have been considerably strengthened in consequence of this visit in dealing with those who wish to intrigue against them.

HAROLD CHRISTIAN.

* See No. 293. † See No. 139. ‡ See Enclosure in No. 275

Scheme for Improvement of Malé Harbour.

No. 311.

Memorandum dated January 9, 1906.

THE Maldivian Ambassador, at a personal interview with the Lieutenant-Governor in January 9, 1906, stated that the Maldivian Government would require a dredger for the improvement of the Malé harbour.

An engineer of the local firm of Messrs. Walker & Sons is said to have inspected the harbour and made a report.

No. 312.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary to Messrs. Walker, Sons & Co., Limited.

No. 605.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, January 19, 1906.

GENTLEMEN,—I AM directed to inquire if you can kindly favour Government with a copy of the report made in the year 1900 or 1901 by an engineer of your firm who inspected Malé harbour in the Maldive Islands.

F. J. SMITH,
for Colonial Secretary.

No. 313.

Messrs. Walker, Sons & Co., Limited, to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colombo Iron Works,
Colombo, January 23, 1906.

SIR,—WE have the honour to reply to your letter No. 605 of 19th instant. We regret that we are unable to furnish you with a copy of the report made by our engineer some time about 1900 or 1901. The engineer who made this report is now no longer connected with our firm, and we are unable to find a copy of the report.

WALTER LAMONT,
Managing Director.

No. 314.

His Highness Sultan Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of Maldives,
to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY his position be exalted!

WE beg to inform Your Excellency that we had ordered our Ambassador, Ameer Abdul Hamid Didi, when he visited Your Excellency this time, to buy for us from London, through Walker & Co. in Colombo, an apparatus for removing small stones and sand inside the harbour at Malé when boats are anchored.

When our Ambassador communicated this matter to the Hon. the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir A. M. Ashmore, he said that the Government of Ceylon could lend those apparatus to Maldivian Government, and showed the same to him; but the same was found unsuitable for the work, it being too big.

He then said that the Ceylon Government would send an officer to us in order to see the place to be cleared at Malé, and thereafter the Government of Ceyon would procure one, cheap, from London direct for us, and that it was not necessary to buy the same through companies.

We are now expecting the arrival of the said person from your Government, and that as early as possible.

May you live long!

Male, Palace of the Sultan, 14th Moharram, 1324.
(March 10, 1906.)

No. 315.

Captain B. T. Somerville to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

H. M. S. "Sealark."
Colombo, April 8, 1906.

DEAR SIR ALEXANDER,—SOME time ago I had a request from Government for charts and information concerning Malé, the capital of the Maldives, the Sultan having asked for a dredger to clear out his harbour.

There is no chart, nor any official information about the place, but knowing that the whole Maldive group is a coral formation, I replied that it would probably not be possible for any dredger belonging to Ceylon to be able to do anything for the place.

I wrote at once to Mr. Stanley Gardiner, the scientist, who accompanied us on our Indian Ocean scientific cruise last year, who had been a long time in the Maldive Islands, and knew Malé well.

His reply, which I enclose, confirms what I said, and even goes farther. There is, as you will see, no "harbour," strictly speaking, at all—nothing but a slight depression in the shore reef (as so constantly occurs in fringing reef), where there is 2 ft. at low water and perhaps 5 or 6 ft. at high water, with a hard coral rock bottom covered with little coral stones, occasionally picked up and thrown upon the edge of the reef (which is usually higher than the "lagoon" within), to form a sort of "breakwater."

It would be absolutely impossible to get a dredger in; or if she were in, to dredge.

There appears to be deep water pretty suddenly outside; and the most economical thing to do would be to build a causeway across the present "harbour" from the island, with a jetty on the outside edge of the reef, at which vessels of any size could unload in fine weather, as there is 8 to 20 fathoms. It would be quite possible, I should say, to make one sufficiently good with native labour and native materials.

BOYLE T. SOMERVILLE.
Commander.

Report by Mr. J. Stanley Gardiner, dated April 8, 1906.

THE harbour requiring dredging at Malé is the one immediately in front of the Sultan's Palace, just off where the foreign traders have their shops and abodes. It is not a harbour at all in any sense of the word. The reef here fringes the land, and it has at its edge a built-up breakwater of coral masses, with two narrow passages of 6 ft. and 2 ft. of water at low tide. Inside this wall the reef has been to some degree cleared out by hand labour, so that two or three tiers of *odis* (open native boats) can anchor bows to north. Buggalows (Ceylon vessels) and larger native vessels anchor to leeward of one of the islands within the lagoon to the north, the one chosen varying in accordance with the monsoon. Goods are brought ashore in open sailing boats. The Sultan's schooner used to occupy (and probably the same or some similar boat does now) about half of the 6 ft. passage, leaving a relatively small opening. The depth immediately off the edge of the reef is about 8 fathoms, tailing to 20 fathoms 100 yards away.

The harbour is not a harbour in any way in the true sense of the word. It is merely part of the reef-flat enclosed by a breakwater along more or less the line of the "boulder zone." Half of it dries at "springs," and when these are low practically all boats within it are aground. The bottom of the harbour is formed of the same sort of rock as forms all reef-flats; it is quite solid, and not a mass of loose material or mud. The only way of clearing it would be by blasting, but certainly a good deal could be done by the people at Malé in keeping it free from dirt and mud, and clearing out its inner half to 2 ft. or 3 ft. at springs. I scarcely think an ordinary dredger could touch the bottom, and I doubt whether one could get inside at all until the passage had been cleared out still further.

My diagram* is from memory, but I think gives the idea and approximate size. Walkers, the engineers, sent over and examined the place in 1899 (year ?), and probably made a proper plan.

J. S. GARDINER.

No. 316.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's Cottage,
Nuwara Eliya, June 26, 1906.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—WITH reference to your letter dated the 14th Moharram, 1324, corresponding to March 10, 1906, of the Christian era, I have the honour to inform Your Highness that I have consulted the Resident Engineer of the Colombo Harbour Works and others with regard to the improvement of Malé harbour.

2. It has been suggested that, owing to the peculiar nature and formation of the harbour, it would be impossible to get a dredger into it, or, if a dredger were taken in, to carry out dredging operations; and that under these circumstances the most economical measure to improve the harbour so as to make it of use to large vessels would be to build a causeway across the present harbour with a jetty on the outside edge of the reef, at which vessels of any size could unload in fine weather. There would be 8 to 20 fathoms of water there, which would allow of large vessels approaching the jetty.

3. In order to frame an estimate of the cost of the proposed causeway and jetty, it will be necessary to make a survey of the harbour and its surroundings; and I shall be glad to lend the services of an officer of the Colombo Harbour Works for the purpose. The survey will probably occupy a month, and will cost Rs. 1,068 on account of salaries and wages of the surveyor and his coolies, &c., and a sum of Rs. 3,500 on account of the hire of a vessel to convey the surveyor and his coolies to Malé and back. If the survey occupies more than a month, the cost will be proportionately higher. I shall be glad to know if Your Highness' Government is prepared to meet the cost of the survey.

I have, &c.,
HENRY A. BLAKE.

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* Not reproduced.

No. 317.

His Highness Muhammad Samsu-ddin Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY Your Excellency's position be exalted!

WE beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of June 26 last, giving us your suggestions as regards the improvements to the Malé harbour. In reply, we beg to state that it is not our intention to so improve the harbour as to render it accessible to large vessels and steamers.

Our object is only to deepen the inner harbour within the breakwater, and thus make it capable of affording anchorage to "kundiras" (native vessels) and small boats. The inner harbour has to be made 12 ft. deep, for which purpose a steam dredger capable of bringing up about 3 cwt. of sand and pebbles is required.

We have instructed our Ambassador to more fully explain the requirements for our harbour improvement works.

May Your Excellency live long!

Palace, Malé, 14th Savval, 1324.
(December 1, 1906.)

No. 318.

Memorandum by His Excellency the Governor to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

THE Ambassador spoke to me on this subject, and I told him that according to our information dredging would be impossible. You had better see him and give him copies of Capt. Somerville's letter of April 8, 1901, and its enclosure from Mr. Gardiner. I am afraid that in buying a dredger they will waste their money. They could at low water satisfy themselves as to the depth of sand over the coral formation in the harbour by simple boring or testing with an iron rod.

HENRY A. BLAKE.

Exemption of Vessel bearing Tribute from Buoy Rent.

No. 319.

The Officer Administering the Government of Ceylon to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

Colombo, July 30, 1907.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have caused instructions to be issued to the Principal Collector of Customs that the vessel bringing the usual annual tribute from your Government should be exempted from payment of buoy rent in Colombo Harbour for one calendar month, counting from the date of entry into harbour.

2. I am of opinion that one month is a reasonable time within which the presents can be given and delivery taken of the return presents from the Ceylon Government; and I trust that this arrangement will meet with Your Highness' appreciation.

I have, &c.,

HUGH CLIFFORD.

No. 320.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of July 30 last, informing us that instructions have been issued to the Principal Collector of Customs to exempt the vessel bearing our usual annual tribute from payment of the buoy rent in Colombo Harbour from the date of entry into harbour.

2. We beg to inform Your Excellency that the period referred to, viz., one calendar month, is ample for the delivery of our tribute and the receipt of the return presents from the Ceylon Government.

3. The decision arrived at will be communicated by us to our Ambassador.

Palace, Malé, Sahfan 20, 1325.
(September 29, 1907.)

M. SAMS-UD-DIN.

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Visit of H. M. S. "Proserpine," September, 1909.

No. 321.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Crewe, K.G.

Miscellaneous.—No. 636.

The Queen's House, Colombo,
Ceylon, October 20, 1909.

My Lord,—I have the honour to forward, for Your Lordship's information, the accompanying copy of a report made by the Commanding Officer of H. M. S. "Proserpine" to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of the East Indies Station of the recent visit of that ship to the Maldive Islands.

2. I have expressed my thanks to Rear-Admiral Slade for the report, which is one of much interest.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

Enclosure in No. 321.

The Commander of H. M. S. "Proserpine" to the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station.

H. M. S. "Proserpine," at Colombo,
September 13, 1909.

Sir,—I have the honour to report that in accordance with your orders dated September 1, 1909 I left Colombo in His Majesty's ship under my command at 10 A.M. on the 3rd instant with a mail for the Maldive Islands, and proceeded at ordinary speed to Malé.

2. A fresh breeze from W.S.W. was met with until within 80 miles of the islands, when it became scarcely more than a light air. The weather was generally fine with a cloudy sky. A sharp rain squall with wind from the W.S.W. was met with in longitude 75° E. For the first twelve hours a N.N.E. current set of 20' a day was met with, which decreased to nothing in longitude 74° 30' E. Barometer and thermometer were normal.

3. I arrived at Malé at 10.30 A.M. on 6th instant, entering by the channel east of King's island. The Maldive flag was saluted with 17 guns on anchoring, the salute being returned by the fort.

4. The Private Secretary to the Sultan, the native doctor of the port, and another minister came on board soon after my arrival. The Sultan's Private Secretary speaks English fluently and acts as interpreter: the Prime Minister also speaks some English.

5. In the afternoon I was received with some of the officers by the Sultan. The usual compliments were exchanged, and I presented the officers. I asked His Highness whether any foreign ships or men-of-war had visited the islands, and whether any coal had been deposited or transferred at any of the atolls: he replied to both questions in the negative. It was arranged for His Highness to return my visit the following afternoon.

6. After the reception we were taken by the ministers to see the town and to the Prime Minister's house, where we were entertained. In the evening some fish was sent off as a present from the Sultan.

7. The following afternoon the Sultan returned my visit, accompanied by his three brothers and ministers. The ship was dressed, and boat firing was carried out at a target; a torpedo was also fired. Guns, &c., were explained to His Highness, and a pulling race was arranged for his benefit. Photographs were taken of the Sultan and his brothers, and on his departure a salute of 17 guns was fired.

8. A Small Arm Company was landed on the 8th instant.

9. The Staff Surgeon visited one of the Sultan's female relations at His Highness' request and attended many other cases as well.

10. On the 9th instant leave was given and a cricket match was played: and I regret to report a sad accident to Po 12,950 Private Victor Luckham, R. M. L. I., who was drowned while bathing at Malé (on the beach of the island of Hulule) on the 9th instant. A report of inquiry is attached.*

11. He was buried on the following day on the island of Funidoo, next to the grave of Captain Overend, R.N.

12. His Highness received me at 4 P.M. on Friday, the 10th, when I took leave of him, and made myself responsible for the following messages:—

To His Excellency the Governor.

13. He commends himself, and expresses high appreciation of the protection of His Majesty the King, and expresses his gratitude for the benefits which have already accrued to himself and his subjects therefrom.

14. He begs His Excellency to have in mind the *ex*-Sultan and other exiles and their past attempts upon the peace of his islands at the time of the change of monsoon.

15. He also informs His Excellency that he has it on good authority that these same persons are at this moment actively engaged recruiting men, even in Colombo itself, for the purpose of making an attack upon him at the close of this present monsoon. The town is placed in a state of defence nightly, and His Highness is in a constant state of anxiety. But as the blow is likely to fall on some out-lying island, where assistance from His Highness could not reach in time, he craves His Excellency's assistance by the setting of a closer watch upon these people.

* Not printed

16. His Highness also begs that he may be supplied with some more modern guns (9-pounder R. M. L., for instance), in place of the two old bronze guns sent in answer to his last request by the Government of Ceylon.

17. His Highness says that although the days of fighting are to all intents past, there are still frequent occasions when a salute must be fired; on the last occasion on which these guns were used, His Highness' Treasurer was nearly blown to pieces as the result of an accident due to their extreme age.

18. His Highness is prepared, if necessary, to stand the expense of seven modern guns from his own pocket, and asks that friction tubes may be supplied to him for use in place of the red hot poker, which is their only means of firing them now.

19. His Highness would greatly appreciate the gift of two Very's light pistols and ammunition for them.

To His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies.

20. His Highness commends himself, and desires to express his gratitude for the visit of H. M. S. "Proserpine." The visits of men-of war to Malé are a source of great gratification to His Highness and his subjects.

21. His Highness desired to express the deep sorrow with which he had heard of the accident on the shore of one of his islands, which had resulted in the death of a private of Marines, and the pleasure it had given him to be able to assist in the recovery of the body and the funeral, and would give him to preserve the grave.

22. I then took my leave after His Highness had presented some further presents, and proceeded to sea at 6 P.M., carrying out the trials ordered in Temporary Memorandum No. 37 of July 29, 1909, that evening.

23. The following day (Saturday) at 9 A.M. a Court of Inquiry was convened to inquire into the circumstances attending the death of Private Luckham, R. M. L. I., the minutes of which are attached,* and that evening the afore-mentioned trials were repeated, the results of the first not being entirely satisfactory.

24. We experienced nothing but fine weather with a few rain squalls and the wind from the west of a force of 3–4 during the trip, arriving here in Colombo this morning, September 13.

25. I am 240 tons of coal short.

H. J. T. MARSHALL,
Commander.

General Remarks by the Captain.

H. M. S. "Proserpine," at Malé.
September 10, 1909.

SEVERAL differences were noticed between the descriptions on the chart, sketches, and descriptions in previous reports and the islands and marks as actually seen: these matters are dealt with in the Navigator's report.

2. The eastern entrance is quite simple, but it is a long way round, and, we are told, is seldom used now; the ship was anchored over the anchor marked in the chart, but the natives all agree that the best anchorage is farther out, as the one marked is too close to the island of Funido, and is in the very centre of the cross tides and currents.

3. In regard to this we had a disquieting experience one night, when the ship, lying with her head towards the west (in which direction she had lain up till then, with only a diminution of the flood stream to mark the period of the ebb), was suddenly struck by a violent current, running at the rate of about four knots from the east, which whisked her round and ran for about four hours: so sudden and strong was it that the only explanation which suggested itself to me was that there had been a disturbance of the sea bottom in the near vicinity: however, on inquiry from the natives they told us of a form of Bore, caused by the fact that the northerly set and the flood tide both run out of the entrance to the east of Malé and out of the gap to the westward.

4. The old fortifications and guns are very interesting, some of them dating from Portuguese times and some from "Company" times: the Gunner is writing me a report of them. The Maldivians claim to have built the walls themselves to protect them against invasion from the Malabar coast in past days.

5. Although the reports of previous visits spoke of the excellent manner in which the streets were kept, I was quite unprepared for the fine broad avenues, illuminated by oil lamps, intersecting at right angles, and edged with enclosed gardens, mosques, bathing-ponds, and open spaces with public seats such as I found. The streets are kept in a manner that might well raise the envy of many English towns, and the general appearance with the flowering trees which hang over the enclosing fences is very pleasant.

6. I found the Sultan shy, and almost childish in some ways, turning instantly to his Prime Minister and Private Secretary, who stood on each side of him, for the initiative which he lacked: but anxious and ready to act as soon as the initiative was supplied: he seems to be an important factor in the Government, and is, I should say, honestly served by his present Minister.

7. The Prime Minister gave me the impression of a sound and zealous patriot: his brother (by the same father), the Treasurer, is, I should say, a most trustworthy man, and certainly one very pleasant to deal with.

8. His Highness' Private Secretary, who is the Prime Minister's son, speaks English very well indeed; he is the business man, and appears well able to manage the paper work. These appeared to be the principal men in the island; but there is one other I would note, the Port Officer; he seemed a very efficient man.

9. The town is divided into four educational areas, each with its own school, &c., where the children are taught Maldivian and Arabic.

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* Not printed.

10. The Sultan appeared very pleased with his visit to the "Proserpine." We showed him boat firing, and then allowed him to fire a torpedo himself, which practically hit the target; he then saw the boats started in a race, after which he walked round the ship, coming up on the poop in time to see the finish; several groups were then taken of His Highness, his brothers, and attendants.

11. On Wednesday I landed the Small Arm Companies and Marines, who went through some evolutions on the fine green in front of the palace for the benefit of His Highness and court.

12. On the evening of the same day the officers and I attended a turtle hunt got up in our honour, at which thirteen turtles were caught: I had no hesitation in accepting all the thirteen, as their religion prohibits the inhabitants from eating them. Of these, six were kept and brought back to Colombo.

13. On Thursday a cricket match was played between two teams from the ship on the green in front of the palace: an attempt was made to get up a match against the shore, but they only have five or six who play, and preferred to watch the above-mentioned match.

14. A party of men under a first class Petty Officer was allowed to go away in boats for a picnic, and while bathing, just as the men were being called out of the water, Private Luckham, R. M. L. I., who had been swimming about without difficulty in a strip of deep water between the reef and the beach, was suddenly overcome in some unexplained manner, and sank before the nearest man (about six yards from him) could get to his assistance. He did not rise again alive.

15. The sad news was reported to the ship at once by a signalman with the party, and was brought to me where I was watching the cricket match by the side of the Prime Minister, within half an hour of the accident: the Prime Minister at once ordered boats and expert divers to the scene, and they arrived there (the island of Hulule, about 2 miles distant) at the same time as myself and the doctor: the body was not recovered until 1¼ hour after the accident, and although every effort was made by Staff Surgeon Starr to restore animation, it was unfortunately in vain.

16. It was not till this moment, when I inquired of the Treasurer, Abdulla Didi Effendi who with most of the Ministry was present on the beach, that I heard of the existence of a Christian burial ground on Funidoo island, where several officers and men have been buried in past times, one of the earliest being Captain Overend of H. M. S. "Doris," who was buried there in 1797: here I sought and at once obtained permission from the Sultan to bury Private Luckham.

17. I would mention that every assistance was at once given to the party by the headman of the village and the villagers of the island to recover the body before the arrival of the Ministers and myself: and that the Prime Minister sent a party of men at dawn on Friday morning to Funidoo island to cut the undergrowth, clear the path to the burial ground, and dig the grave.

18. Private Luckham was buried with full military honours on Friday morning at 8 A.M. In the absence of a priest the service was conducted by myself: mourning flags were hoisted at all the mosques on shore.

19. A temporary wooden cross has been put up, and two stones have been put on order with the natives, which will replace it when they are ready. Stones to the memory of Captain Overend and other officers were made in the island and bear English inscriptions: no inhabitants are permitted to approach the place, except when sent by the Sultan for the annual inspection and repair.

20. Officers and men have been treated with a very fine hospitality, and it has been found impossible to pay for anything or in any way recompense the islanders for anything provided or done, the invariable answer being that "the Sultan has forbidden it" when any money is offered; they have been very outspoken in their appreciation of our efforts to entertain them.

21. It appears to be a most orderly and happy little community, and Staff Surgeon Starr informs me that the health and sanitary arrangements are much improved upon that previously reported, and that there is very little sickness now. The only trouble is that the traders, whom they call "Moormen" or "Indians," are setting a bad example of theft to the natives, which is unfortunately being followed by some of the inhabitants, who previously possessed no such fault.

22. There is an up-to-date telephone laid between the custom-house on the landing jetty and the guard room at the palace. This we put in place for them, as they had lost the instructions sent with it.

23. There is a small steam dredger kept in the harbour, which, however, they find of little use on account of the nature of the bottom.

24. The Sultan keeps a pair of horses, and cattle and goats appear to thrive well; there is a racecourse, but nothing that I could see to run on it except the Sultan's carriage horses.

H. J. T. MARSHALL.
Commander.

Hydrographic Notes, &c., on Maldives.

H. M. S. "Proserpine," at Androth.
September 23, 1909.

SIR,—In accordance with your orders, I have the honour to submit the following notes on the Maldive Islands.

2. A buoy has been moored in the anchorage north of the island. (See hydrographic note.*)

3. The Sultana's tomb on Wild Point consists of a square whitewashed building with two small towers surmounted by lamps and resembling miniature lighthouses. It also has a staff, from which several pieces of white cloth are usually flown.

4. The islands of Aramh and Vehamafuri are surrounded by coral reefs, which are nearly awash. In the case of Vehamafuri the shoal water extends for 1¼ cable towards the west. The sandbank with trees in latitude N. 4° 15′ 30″ and longitude E. 73° 31′ 30″ has become awash, and the trees have disappeared. (See hydrographic note.*)

* Not printed.

5. The clump of trees on an island on the north of the recommended entrance on the eastern side of the atoll in latitude N. 4° 16′ 45″ and longitude E. 73° 32′ 30″ is no longer remarkable, but the trees on the "low island" three-quarter mile to the N.E. are easily recognizable, as they are low and topped by straggling and uneven palms.

6. This channel is not very readily found, and does not seem so suitable for steam vessels as that on the eastern side of Malé island, which is shown on the accompanying sketch.*

7. Sights were taken for the correction of chronometers, and the results seem to show that the island is charted too far to the westward, the true longitude of the observation spot being apparently 73° 31′ 40″ E. These sights were not, however, sufficiently numerous or accurate to fix the longitude, but serve to throw doubt on the charted position.

8. Rough sights were also taken to ascertain the variation, and showed that it is about 3° W., instead of 2° W. as shown on the chart.

9. During the ship's stay the current in the anchorage north of Malé island generally set about S.E., but on the evening of September 7 a violent N.W. set of three or four knots was experienced. The islanders say that this phenomenon occurs at intervals, but its reason is not very plain.

10. Funidoo island is a well-wooded islet about 200 yards by 150 N. and S. The undergrowth seems well kept down, and a large well-kept path bisects the island from north to south.

11. On the south end of the island, at the end of the path, just before coming out on the beach, was the grave of Captain Overend, H. M. S. "Doris," March 16, 1797; there also is the grave of Private Luckham, R. M. L. I. There were numerous graves on each side of the path on the south side: these all had native inscriptions, though by the size of the head and foot stones and their distance apart several might be the graves of Europeans, the rest being small and closer together, like the stones in the cemeteries in Malé island.

12. The trees are apparently kept trimmed, and I believe the Sultan sends a party of his men to clear up the island once every year, no one being allowed there at any other time, though some rabbits have been put down to breed.

13. The island has several varieties of large flowering trees and palms: the native head stones, some of which were very old, were found among the trees, which had displaced some of the graves.

14. The landing place is on the north side with Dunidoo island N. 12° W., and these angles on trees on Aramh island 30° 50′—trees on Vehamafuri island 30° 50′—Hulule island.

15. The position of graves is with the landing F. S. on Malé island, S. 58° E., and the conspicuous tree on east side of Malé S. 5° E.

W. R. PRISTON.
Lieutenant (N.).

Sanitary Condition at Malé.

1. *Water Supply.*—Fresh water for drinking and washing purposes is obtained from rain water and wells. The former is collected from the roofs of the houses, &c., and led through iron pipes and stored in wooden cisterns. As there is not a big enough supply of rain water for the whole population, water from this source is obtainable by the better classes only, the majority of the people having to be satisfied with the water from the wells.

2. Nearly every house has a well in the courtyard. These wells are from 10 to 15 ft. deep, the water in them rising nearly to the surface. They are roughly lined with blocks of coral, the lining offering little or no resistance to contamination with outside matter. That this occurs will be appreciated on reading the analysis of the water; there are others in close proximity, which are provided as bathing places. This arrangement is undoubtedly one of the causes of pollution of the water in the drinking wells, the water passing freely from one to the other through the porous earth.

3. *Analysis of Well Water.*—(i) Bright and clear; no colour, odour, or turbidity.
(ii.) Very little temporary hardness.
(iii.) Certain amount of residue left after evaporation; this charred easily and smelt of burnt animal matter.
(iv.) Distinct yellow colour with Nessler solution, showing the presence of free ammonia.
(v.) Ten grains of clorine to the gallon.
(vi.) A trace of nitrites.
(vii.) Nitrates not excessive.
(viii.) About three degrees of hardness.
(ix.) Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes at 212° Fahr., fifteen grains per gallon.

4. The water analyzed was taken from a well which was said to be one of the best, and is quite unfit for human consumption, although the natives appear to thrive on it. It shows recent contamination by sewage matter.

5. *Disposal of Sewage.*—(i.) The majority of the inhabitants deposit their excreta on the foreshore, which smells very badly in consequence.
(ii.) The better classes use the compounds surrounding their houses, digging shallow holes in the ground, depositing their excreta into these, afterwards filling up the holes with earth.

6. As the wells for drinking and bathing purposes are in the same compounds, this method of disposing of excrementitious matter must be a fruitful source of danger.

7. *General Remarks.*—There is great wastage by the present methods of collecting rain water, and other arrangements could easily be made which would largely prevent this.

8. New and properly lined wells could be sunk far away from any possible source of pollution.

9. The necessity of thoroughly boiling all water used for drinking should be impressed upon the natives.

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* Not printed.

10. With regard to the disposal of sewage, I would suggest that trenches should be dug leading to the sea and lined with some impervious material. Excreta could be deposited in these, and they could be freely flushed with water night and morning, or oftener if required: any more elaborate method would require skilled labour, and would be very expensive.

11. I could obtain no history of any epidemic diseases of an infectious nature, or of leprosy or syphilis. It is said that the natives suffer a great deal from fever, and some I saw with scars on the body, which were evidently of a tuberculous nature.

12. The principal articles of diet are fish, fresh and dried coconuts, and rice.

H. M. S. "Proserpine," at Sea.
September 11, 1909.

P. H. M. STARR,
Staff Surgeon.

H. M. S. "Proserpine," at Malé.
September 10, 1909.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to make the following report on (1) the population of the Maldive Islands; (2) the troops and defences; (3) the commerce; (4) boat building.

(1) *Population.*—The permanent population of Malé itself appears to be about 2,000, with a moving population of another 500. The greater part are Maldivians, but there are some Hindu shopkeepers and several Moors, and these latter are said to exercise a bad influence over the Maldivians, having taught them theft. The men are well-proportioned and very friendly; the women appeared shy upon our approach, but were very curious.

(2) *The Troops.*—The whole of the male population forms a militia, for which they are not paid. The only body of troops that are paid are the palace guards, about 25 strong. There is no artillery, but there are several old guns. Apparently there are no projectiles for the guns, but some powder for firing salutes is manufactured in the island and some supplied by the Ceylon Government. There are 25 old Martini-Enfield rifles supplied by the Ceylon Government, who also supply 4,000 rounds of ammunition annually. The rifles are ·45.

(3) *Commerce.*—The chief exports of the island are dried fish and copra. Most of the trading is done with India, chiefly Kutch, and a good deal with Ceylon. The imports are rice and cahons for sails, general produce, &c. Ropes are made in the island, the raw material being imported and also from the coconut fibre in the island. Lime and mortar are also manufactured from coral. An attempt was made to grow rubber in the island, but was unsuccessful, although the soil appears to be rich. Cloth is manufactured from imported raw material.

(4) *Boat Building.*—Boats are built in the island from the coconut wood, and seem well built, but very heavy.

H. V. LAVINGTON,
Sub-Lieutenant.

Report on the Fortifications.

H. M. S. "Proserpine," at Malé.
September 10, 1909.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to make the following report on the fortifications of Malé.

2. The island as viewed from the ship gives the impression of being well fortified, having a large fort in front of the town, and others at intervals along the beach in a south-east direction from the town. A lookout and signal station are established at this south-east end of the island. This side is entirely free from reefs, but has a sea wall or breakwater intersected at intervals by openings wide enough to allow of the dhows to enter a kind of small tidal basin.

3. The principal basin is right under the main fort; it has a small wooden pier. The custom-house, post office, and telephone office are alongside the round fort. The telephone communicates with the arsenal in the palace enclosure, and was put up by H. M. S. "Proserpine" to supersede one of the drum and string species. On the right of the entrance yard are several native shops.

4. The fort, which is made of coral rock, is very ancient and dilapidated, and quite in keeping with the guns mounted. There is one battery of seven cast iron M. L. guns, about 20-pounder, mounted on wooden carriages, and five bronze guns on similar mountings: these are covered in with galvanized sheetings and are in a better condition, but any of these guns would be very dangerous to the gun's crews if fired with projectiles.

5. In two or three cases guns both iron and bronze are placed in position, apparently for show. There are several different kinds of iron guns lying about on the ground inside the fort, varying in size from the small swivel gun up to and including the 20-pounder size already mentioned.

6. Between the fort and palace is a square measuring about 150 yards each way. On the right, facing the palace, is a mosque, having a stone washing tank alongside. On the left are storehouses, newly built, having corrugated roofing. There is a right of way across this green for the natives. The wall enclosing the palace is of coral rock and about 8 feet high; the entrance to the courtyard is guarded by sentries sometimes. There are two steel 7-pounder M. L. guns on field carriages placed in this entrance to the yard; immediately on the left, inside, is an open well of drinking water, then a rectangular building suggesting drill or exercise. On the right is the arsenal, to enter which one must first pass through the guardroom, the armoury, and tailoring workshop. The armoury, being on the upper floor, contains 50 Martini carbines of ·45 calibre, also a ready supply of ball cartridges, the annual supply being 5,000 obtained from the Ceylon Government. There is also some gunpowder. The powder made on the island is of very poor quality, lacking density; sulphur only is imported, and the powder is used for saluting purposes.

7. *The Guard.*—These men appear to be a superior class of native to those met with in the town or bazaar, and are called on for various duties in connection with the Government, such as sentries, boats' crews, labourers, and they are very intelligent and civil, the Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer asking most sensible and pertinent questions on the functions of the telephone, and so closely was every movement followed that one is inclined to believe that should another installation be required on the island no outside help would be required.

JNO. C. TAYLOR,
Gunner.

Presentation of Two Guns to Sultan for Saluting purposes.

No. 322.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's House,
Colombo, October 18, 1909.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—I HAVE the honour to inform you that in compliance with the wish expressed by Your Highness through your Ambassador for a cannon for saluting purposes, I have arranged for two guns to be sent out from England for you.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

No. 323.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives, to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

MAY Your Excellency prosper evermore!

WE have the honour to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of October 18 last, informing us that in compliance with our wish expressed through our Ambassador you have arranged to give us two guns for saluting purposes.

May Your Excellency enjoy long life and prosperity!

Palace, Malé, 15th Thulkahta, 1327.
(November 29, 1909.)

No. 324.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Crewe, K.G., to Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G.

Ceylon.—No. 604. Downing street, November 27, 1909.

SIR,—I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for your information, copies of the correspondence noted in the margin,* from which you will observe that the War Office have agreed to present to the Sultan of the Maldive Islands, for saluting purposes, two 7-pounder R. M. L. 150 lb. guns on mountain carriages.

2. You will note that it will be necessary to expend the sum of about £1 4*s.* in repairs to one of these guns. I have assumed that there will be no objection to the payment of this small charge, in addition to the cost of transporting the guns to Colombo, from Ceylon funds.

I have, &c.,
CREWE.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 324.

Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to the Principal Under Secretary of State.

The Queen's Hotel,
Farnborough, September 20, 1909.

SIR,—ON the last occasion that the Ambassador of the Sultan of the Maldives came to Colombo with the annual tribute, he asked in the name of the Sultan for some guns "for saluting purposes." I informed him that I was unable to meet his wishes in respect to modern guns, but that I would endeavour to procure and present to him two brass or bronze smoothbores of obsolete pattern.

2. I should feel obliged if inquiry could be made from Woolwich Arsenal whether they could let the Ceylon Government have two 12-pounder of the pattern mentioned for the purpose indicated.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

Enclosure No. 2 in No. 324.

The Colonial Office to the War Office.

No. 31,389. Downing street, September 27, 1909.

SIR,—I AM directed by the Earl of Crewe to transmit to you, to be laid before the Army Council, a copy of a letter from the Governor of Ceylon with regard to the desire of the Sultan of the Maldive Islands to obtain some guns for saluting purposes.

* Sir H. McCallum, September 20: to War Office, September 27: War Office, November 22: to War Office, November 27; to Crown Agents, November 27.

2. His Lordship would be much obliged if the Army Council could see their way to present the Sultan with two obsolete guns, as suggested by Sir H. McCallum.

3. The charges connected with the transport of the guns to the Maldive Islands would be borne by Ceylon funds.

H. W. JUST.

Enclosure No. 3 in No. 324.

The War Office to the Colonial Office.

No. 57 S 5,812 (A 2). War Office, London, S.W., November 22, 1909.

SIR,—WITH reference to your communication of September 27 last, on the subject of the presentation of two obsolete guns to the Sultan of the Maldive Islands for saluting purposes, I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that two 7-pounder R. M. L. 150 lb. guns on mountain carriages could be supplied for this purpose.

2. One of the guns, however, requires re-venting before issue, at an estimated cost of £1 10s., and I am to say that it is considered that the cost of this service should be borne by Ceylon funds.

3. I am to inquire whether you wish the issue of these guns proceeded with.

E. W. D. WARD.

Enclosure No. 4 in No. 324.

The Colonial Office to the War Office.

No. 38,077. Downing street, November 27, 1909.

SIR,—I AM directed by the Earl of Crewe to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of November 22 (57 S 5,812 A 2), stating that the Army Council are prepared to present to the Sultan of the Maldive Islands, for saluting purposes, two 7-pounder R. M. L. 150 lb. guns on mountain carriages, and to express His Lordship's thanks to the Army Council for their readiness to meet his wishes.

2. Lord Crewe agrees that the cost of the necessary repairs should be borne by Ceylon funds; and the Crown Agents for the Colonies have been authorized to make the necessary payment on your informing them of the exact amount due. I am to request that the guns, when ready, may be handed over to the Crown Agents for the Colonies for shipment to Colombo.

H. BERTRAM COX.

Enclosure No. 5 in No. 324.

The Colonial Office to the Crown Agents.

No. 38,077. Downing street, November 27, 1909.

GENTLEMEN,—I AM directed by the Earl of Crewe to transmit to you, for your information and guidance, a copy of the correspondence noted in the margin* with regard to certain obsolete guns, which it is proposed to present to the Sultan of the Maldive Islands for saluting purposes.

2. I am to request that you will make arrangements in due course for the shipment of the guns to Colombo, and will notify the Colonial Government when you have done so.

H. BERTRAM COX.

No. 325.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives.

The Queen's Cottage, Nuwara Eliya, March 16, 1910.

YOUR HIGHNESS,—WITH reference to your letter dated 15th Thulkahta, 1327, corresponding to November 29, 1909,† of the Christian era, I have much pleasure now in informing Your Highness that on my representation His Majesty's Government has been pleased to present you with two 7-pounder R. M. L. 150 lb. guns on mountain carriages, which I trust will be acceptable to you.

2. I have caused instructions to be issued for the guns, which are expected shortly from England, to be given in charge of Your Highness' representative in Colombo.

I have, &c.,

HENRY McCALLUM.

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* See Enclosures Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 in No. 324.

† See No. 323.

(54)

No. 326.

Governor Sir H. E. McCallum, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Crewe, K.G.

Miscellaneous.—No. 255.

The Queen's Cottage, Nuwara Eliya,
Ceylon, May 4, 1910.

My Lord, With reference to Your Lordship's despatch No. 604 of November 27 last, I have the honour to report that on the receipt of the two 7-pounder R. M. L. 150 lb. guns on mountain carriages, which have been presented by the War Office to the Sultan of the Maldives, they were placed in charge of the Sultan's representative in Colombo, by whom they were despatched to the Maldive Islands on April 29.

2. I take this opportunity of conveying both to Your Lordship and to the Army Council my thanks for the presentation of the two guns.

I have, &c.,
HENRY McCALLUM.

No. 327.

His Highness Muhammad Sams-ud-din Iskandar, Sultan of the Maldives,
to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon.

May Your Excellency prosper evermore!

We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letter of March 16 last and the two 7-pounder 150 lb. guns on mountain carriages mentioned therein, and sent to us through our representative in Colombo.

2. We beg to express our great appreciation of the gift made to us by the English Government as a token of their favour and goodwill towards us, and to tender our grateful thanks for the same.

Palace, Malé, 12th Jamadulavval, 1327.
(May 22, 1910.)

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, H.C.P, "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 Maldive capital Male in the middle of Jan 1908. He sailed with his own steam-yacht "LYSISTRATA" (from 1901 to 1914), then the world's biggest and most luxurious private ship. 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 Maldive 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]

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1). CEYLON OBSERVER, 22 Jan, 1908.

Yacht "LYSISTRATA" due in Colombo with Mr, Gordon Bennett and Party. The yacht "LYSISTRATA" with Mr. Gordon Bennett, propriator 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.

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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, propriator of the "New York Herald", and a disting-uished 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. Mateliell. 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.

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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.

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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.

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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."

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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-Empress 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, please contact me.
Lars Vilgon, Stockholm. ***

1945. GILBERT, WILLIAM H.

IN; The Sinhalese Caste System. Journal of the Washington Academy of Science, Vol,35, No,3, P,73, (Maldives,) March, Washington 1945.

Extremely little is documented about the Maldive "Cast System". In this article of 40 pages, just one half page gives some information. No one, Maldive native or foreigner, has obviously taken the time and interest to show if there really was, or is, a "Caste" or "Class" system in the Maldive Islands like that in Minicoy Island. [ENGLISH]

Relations to the Maldivian Caste.

The Maldive Islands to the southwest of Ceylon are inhabited by a Moslem people whose speech is related to the Sinhalese. It is generally believed that the culture of the archipelago stems historically from Ceylon. The various writers who, first reported on the Maldives detailed four major caste groups.

1. The "Bandara", or royal caste, which was composed of the soverign and his relatives.

2. The "Didus", or persons of high dignity who might intermarry with the royal family if specially permitted and carried hereditary titles of nobility.

3. The "Manike" or "Maniku", who were gentry.

4. The "Kalo" or "Kamulo", the common people, made up of artisans, tradesmen, and persons engaged in ordinary occupations.

Apparently the nobility was more of a class than a caste, especially in relation to the first rank and since some were given titles from the gentry.

The "Maniku" would seem to correspond closely with the Singalese "Goigama", or Cultivator, caste, while the lower Sinhalese castes would correspond with the "Kalo". It is noticeable that the Moslems or Moors of Ceylon itself are divided into four classes; Merchants, Weavers, Fisherman, and Barbers.

The Maldivian occupational equivalent to the lower Sinhalese castes occur in the following examples. Fishers, Lacworkers, Mat-weavers, Carpenters, Gold- and Silversmiths, Blacksmiths, Tailors, Barbers, Masons, Weavers, and Toddy-drawers. The available literature does not indicate, however, that these occupations were hereditary and characterized by in-marrying restrictions. ***

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	HSÜAN 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-YÜAN	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	CAMOES, 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	HOSSAYS, 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

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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 JAWALIQI, MAWHÜB	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	Marshal, 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

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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	BARTHOLUMEUZ, OLIVER	English	Bartholumeusz, 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.	Divehi	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm	1993	211
1993	MALDIV MAP. VILGON, L.	Divehi	Vilgon, Lars	Stockholm	1993	223

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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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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
1934	PLATT, ARTHUR JAMES	English	Platt,Arthur J	London	1936	5 223
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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