## THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1867.

## THE ISLAND OF CEYLON.

WE NATURAL BRAUTY AND COMMERCIAL RESOURCES. Translated from the Revue des Deux Mondes.

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The NATURAL status for the Revue des Deux Mondes. Translated from the Revue des Deux Mondes. If there is any island in the world on which the whole arsenal of admiratuve epithets has been exhausted, it is certainly the Island of Geston. The adherents of Brahma call it Lanka, "the respletion;" those of Badtha perceive in it the pearl failen from the crown of India; to the Chinese it is the Island of Jewels, Laou-tshou; to the Greeks it is the home of precious stones, and the enthusiasm of a certain class of Biblical commentators went even so far as to place there the paradise of Genesis. To the more prosaic salior, who never loses sight of the uncreat of his ship, this terrestrial paradise has a radical defect, as he finds there no safe anchoring ground. A simple look on the map of the Indian sea is sufficient to show that the southern extremity of the Island of Ceylon is one of those points which are naturally marked out as marketime contre. It may be justly said that extremity of the Island of Ceylon is one of those points which are naturally marked out as a maritime centre. It may be justly said that the port of Point de Galle must indispensably be resorted to as a place of provision or refuge by all steamers which come from or go to Calcutta and Singapore. Uniortunately, while Tripochale on the calcum shore offers a very Trincomale on the castern shore offers a very sate anchoring place, the harbor of Point de Galle is narrow, incommodious, even danger-ous when the Southeast trade winds prevail, ous when the Southeast trade winds prevail, ous when the Southeast trade winds prevail, so that ships are obliged to throw out anchors ahead and astern. But while the sailor looks with rather doubtful satisfaction on this, the tourist with unmixed admiration beholds the splendid panorama which is presented before his eyes. Whether he came from Europe over Suez, where he saw nothing but the sterile rocks of Aden; or whether he left betind the Sunda Straits with their flowery islands, Ceylon will offer to his view new objects of admiration. It is true, the sea is of the same deep sapphire blue as at Penang, and the shores, with their never fading verture. and the shores, with their never fading verdure, are reflected from its brilliant surface as well there as here. But in Ceylon he will find the mountain scenery which is wanting in the somewhat effeminate landscape of the Sunda Islands. From the territery arise the massive heights of the Kandy mountain range, overtopped by the Pic of Adam, which towers high

up into the sky. One of the most enchanting roads in the world is that along the western shores of the sea which connects the capital, Colombo, with Point de Galle. The colony is indebted to the English administration for this road as well as for all the other means of communication on the island. Similar to a park alley between Point de Galle and Colombo, for an uninter-rupted line of seventy miles, this road on both sides is shaded by high palm trees, the intervals between which are filed out as with a curtain by orchidaceous plants and other creepers. On his right hand the traveller perceives the mas-sive centre of the Kandy Mountains, and on his left the sea constantly animated by the movements of those fishing boats of an original construction which are called calamarans. The villages are surrounded by clusters of cocoa and areca trees. When he approaches the capital, the old Dutch villas are succeeded by more modern constructions. At last he arrives at the charming village of Colpetty, which is sheltered by a dome of gigantic tamarind trees, and at once he mas himself before the fortified front of the city, on the plain of Galle Faas, covered over with a thick carpet of convolvulas and their brilliant red flowers. Neither Galle nor Colombo possess a character

of remarkable originality; well-preserved fortifications, in the interior some churches built in the seventeenth century, large streets shaded by hibiscus trees one hundred years old, the classic houses of one story of the tropical climates, with verandahs and pillared porticoesthis is the general aspect of the two cities, of which the second is much more important than the first. The great charm of Ceylon, to the stranger, lies in its natural beauty-much less, however, on the sea shore, where nature has been tamed and brought under culture, than in the virgin forests where she is still in her pri-mitive state. Nothing is so beautiful as those mmense masses of verdure which, when seen from the top of an eminence, in soft undula-tions reach as far as the horizon. Nothing can do full justice to the impression which is produced on the traveller when he penetrates

under these secular canopies, high and solemn hke cathedrals, where, even at noon, the rays of the son only

Multiple was first interesting the series of the index submitting the whole island to their rule, the English had good sense enough to declare that religious worship should remain absolutely irec. Ceylon has, in fact, been the promised land of Buddhism since the time it was first introduced there. was first introduced there-316 before Christ. There, on the top of the lofty rack which crowns the Pic of Adam, is found the reverent impress on which the followers of Sakja Mooni purceive the footprint of Buodha as clearly as the Brah-mins see in it that of Siva, and the Mohamme-dans that of Adam. The footprint sheltered by an open pagoda has not less than five feet in langth. One gets to it by means of iron chains through a staircase hewn into the rock, and the pligrimage is usually terminated by an offering of rhododendron flowers. In Ceylon, near Anuradhapura, is seen also the tree Bodhi, sacred above all others, and certainly histori-cally the oldest of the vegetable kingdom, since authentically it was planted 288 years before Christ, Lasily, in Kandy, in a special temple. brist. Lastly, in Kandy, in a special temple there is preserved in the innermost part of the sanctuary, the Dalada, the tooth of the same Sakja Mooni, miraculously preserved from the pile where the rest of his body was burned. Those who have had the original good fortune to look at it, report that it is two inches in length, and scena rather to have been taken out of the jaw of a crocodile than from a human mouth; probably its size has been proportioned to that of the tooturit of which we get to that of the footprint of which we just made mention.

mention. Cinnamon, which for so long was the glory and the wealth of Ceylon, figures to-day on the list of the products of the island only for memory's sake; and the history of its grandeur, followed by its fail, is fertile in economical instructions, of which Great Britain was wise enough to profit. Under the Government of the Dutch, any encroachment on the monopoly Dutch, any encroachment on the monopoly which it laid claim to was punished with the utmost severity. The English administration, less severe, nevertheless preserved this mono-poly up to the year 1832 and then renounced it only in the firm conviction that nature had gitted Ceylon with this precious tree to the ex-clusion of all other colonies; but some other ountries, above all Java, very soon destroyed this illusion, and the Government which un-wisely hid taxed the exportation of cinnamon wisely hid taxed the exportation of cinnamon with 3s. per pound, in a very short time saw itself outlianked by competition. Vainly it de-creased the duties, vainly it sold, one after the other, its splendld cinnamon gardens of 15 to 20 miles in circumference-the hen with "the golden eggs had been killed, the gardens were cut down and transformed into villas, and the whole of the crop, the taxes on which formerly were sufficient to naw more than the half of the were sufficient to pay more than the half of the expenses of the colony, since 1863 amounts not even to more than one million of france.

Another source of wealth seems likewise to have dried up, at least for the present; we mean the peari fishery which, on the northwest coast of the island, from Negombo to Manaar, was carried on from time immemorial. Still, in the ear 1863, it paid taxes to the extent of 1,275,000 francs: but, in 1864, whether the fishing had passed the limits of moderation, or for any other eason, the fact could no longer be denied that this precious oyster had disappeared-and since that time it has not reappeared.

This double mishap was fortunately amply compensated by the extraordinary development which the English gave to the production of coffee.

Their predecessors had not been in the situation to direct their attention to this object on account of their not being the masters of the central part of the island, the only portion where the nature of the soil is favorable to this tionally. branch of culture. Great Britain began with it in 1815; from 1825 the Governor of Ceylon, Sir Edward Barnes, understood that the future of the island was therein, and he gave it a strong impulse by establishing himself, on his private estates in Gangaroova, the first somewhat im-portant plantation in the country. His example rapidly found imitation; all the mountains around Kandy, as well as most of the large val-leys in the interior, were soon covered with coffee plantations, and during several years twenty thousand hectares of land belonging to the crown were yearly sold and immediately cleared for cultivation of coffee. Circumstances favored this rapidly rising new culture. At the very time when the metropolis considerably reduced the import duties on coffee the competition of the other coffee pro-ducing countries was paralyzed by the question of emancipation and by the abolition of the slave trade, while, on the contrary, Ceylon in-cessantly received new laborers from India, so that from year to year the exportation in-creased, and in the year 1863 reached a value of 53,000,000 of francs. At no time had cinuamon ever given such splendid results, and if the prophecies of the colonists may be relied upon, within a very short time they intend to reach a yearly production of 100,000 tons of coffee, valued at more than 125,000,000 of francs. The average crop of Brazil amounts to 125,000 tous per year; but during these latter times, the production has remained stationary. That of Java, which seems to decrease, is 57,000 tons. The total yearly crop of all the countries in the world which produce coffee, is estimated at 350,000 tons. In this enumeration of the products of Cevion it would be unjust not to mention the favorite tree of its inhabitants-the precious cocoa tree -of which the island is supposed to possess twenty millions. Although, in the list of colo-nial products, it figures far behind that of coffee, nevertheless the production of cocoanut oil within the last fifteen years has increased tenfold, and amounted, in 1857, to over five millions of francs. Besides, thanks to the variety of employments for which it is used, this tree is the Providence of the natives, who show it their gratefulness by an attachment the superstitious expression of which has something touching in it. According to them, the tree languishes, and dies when it is beyond the reach of human voice, and never survives when the master to whom it gave its fruit goes abroad. Thus while, on the one hand, fortune provided Ceylon with new sources of riches, on th other it took away from it old ones, such as cinnamon and the pearl oyster. As to its precious stones, whose reputation goes back to the re-motest antiquity, and which were vaunted by Marco Polo in such an enthusiastic manner, they yield to-day scarcely more than 250,000 frances per year. Here and there some are still found, and the English, who visit Neuera-Ellia to spend the summer, there make it their pastime to search for them; but the microscopic fragments of sapphires and topazes which are the result of their efforts will never enrich any one. In another part of the island the capital of the district, which formerly was the richest in precious stones, still preserves its significant name of Ratnapoora (the City of Rubles). But this is now nothing more than a mere tradition, and it and it is not necessary to be a very experienced ieweller in order to appreciate at their just value the doubtful specimens which the natives sport before the eyes of the inexperienced truveller. sport before the eyes of the inexperienced traveller. Another fallen glory of Ceylon is the ele-phant, who, if he has not entirely disappeared from the colony before the progress of civili-zation, at least is made much less use of than formerly. In Point de Galle and Colombo ele-phants are seen but exceptionally: they are reproached with frightening the horses, and the English, in their prosite manner, declare that English, in their prosaic manner, declare that English, in their prosinc manner, declare that the latter, near cities, are more economical and more useful. For the local service about sixty elephants were formerly kept, while to-day their number for the same purpose amounts scarcely to more than a dozen, and although there may still be many in the interior of the inlead in their savage state one would each island in their savage state, one would proba-bly no longer see those splendid herds of two hundred heads, of which, during the first times of the English occupation, frequent mention is of the English occupation, request mention is made. Sir Emerson Tennant gives a lively description of one of the hast great elephant hunts which took place. On such occasions nothing is more curious than the intelligence with which the tamed elephants fulfil their

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to sovereign, had been transferred during a period of 2357 years, was called Sri Wikrama Raja Singha. He was dethroned and impri-soned in the Indian fortress of Vellore, where he lived till 1832. His subjects saw in his downfall, not the loss of an independence by which they profited but little, but rather tae end of a hated and detested tyranny, for his reign was but a long series of the most sangul-nary atrocities. dexterity they seize the moment when, the running-knot being thrown, they must strain the rope of which they hold the other end. Their great composure forms a striking contrast with the rage of the prisoners, and from their arr of satisfaction you would willingly believe that they enjoy the success they obtain. Single hunters also kill large numbers of elephants, and this massacre would have been much more considerable has been much more considerable, had Nature gifled these animals in Ceylon, as in Africa, with those ivory tusks which are of so great commercial value. In one single province of the North, in the years 1845-47, three thousand five hundred elephants 1845-47, three thousand five hundred elephants were killed, and from 1851 to 1856 two thousand were killed in the southern province. It is, therefore, to be justly jeared that in the course of the nineteenth century the elephant in Ceylon will pass out of existence. Alrendy, at present, many travellers visit Point de Galle or Colombo without having seen any of these colossis of the Oid World.

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shed a faint and doub In the midst of these forests live the Veddas, the last descendants of the natives, who are still to-day as savage as they were two thousand years ago, when their ancestors were driven back into the interior of the island by the Indian conqueror Wilayo, five hundred and forty-three years before Christ. Here you find also the imposing ruins of the ancient capitals of Ceylon, Pollanarrua and Anuradhapura, which testify of the splendor of a past civilization. The first of these cities covered a space of thirty miles in length and four in breadth. The place where the palaces stood is marked by walls covered with rich sculptures, that of the temples or viharas by colossal statues of Buddha, fity feet high. The bronze palace, built by the King Gaimoonoo, reposed on 1600 pillars of granite, erected in forty parallel lines, and which contained not less than 900 apartments, distributed in nine stories, one above the other, The building received its name from the metadlic roof which covered the whole. In Anurad-hapura, a whole mountain, that of Mihintala, had been cut out for a temole, while the re-mains of another not less gigantic pagoda, that of Maha Stoopa, would actually furnish enough bricks to construct a wall ten feet high and one foot thick from London to Edinburgh. Of all constructions the most remarkable, whose de struction is the most remarkance, whose the struction is the most to be regretted, were the vast water reservoirs which formerly secured to the whole island an inexhaustible fertility. These were real artificial lakes of ten, fifteen, and twenty miles in circumference, which fur-nished the water for the canals of irration in sufficient quantity to fertilize whole provinces, sufficient quantity to fertilize whole provinces, which India is to-day obliged to provide with rice necessary to feed its inhabitants. There were formerly distributed over the island thirty of these artificial lakes, and six to seven hun-dred small reservoirs—a complete system of irrigation. The Portuguese and Dutch allowed these indispensable and useful constructions to fail in ruin, and the English Government to fall in ruin, and the English Government coiled before the enormous expenses, which, for the re-edification of the dike of Padivil, were estimated at thirty-two millions of francs; ten thousand working men during five years would have been required for it.

Ceylon and Malacca have been under the Ceylon and Malacca have been under the same masters, and passed through the same political phases, since the epoch of their dis-covery. The Portuguese first took possession of them in the beginning of the sixteenth cen-tury. Towards the middle of the seventeenth the Dutch expelled them, and finally the Eng-lish profited by the wars of the French Revo-lution in 1796 to occupy them. The Dutch lution in 1796, to occupy them. The Dutch regimen left few traces in the Island, while the Portuguese have marked their passage by acts, the remembrance of which still imgers in the mind of the inhabitants. More preoccupied with the propagation of their religious creed than with the interests of commerce, they may boast of having founded there a Catholicism which for 200 years victoriously resisted the ruling Protestant Governments. Their lan-guage, somewhat corrupted, is still that of the middle classes in many of the cities of the island. The natives seem to have forgot-ten their cruelty only to remember their chevaleresque bravery. Even to-day certain chiefs not only pride themselves in placing the title of *Don* before their names, like their ancestors, but they even add willingly the pompous and but they even add willingly the pompous and sonorous Christian names of the Luritanian calendar. Nine hundred noble Portuguese families inhabited Colombo at the time of the capitulation by which the city was suprendered to the Dutch in 1656. The Portuguese domina-tion was, however, only a prolonegd struggle, which continued with little interruption during the Dutch occupation: and this could scarcely the otherwise so long as the colonists limited be otherwise so long as the coloniats, limited in their possessions to the plains on the sea-shores, were obliged to halt at the foot of the mountain region which formed the interior Kingdom of Kandy. The English only suc-ceeded in perfecting its conquest after the peace of 1815. The King who then reigned, the last heir of a crown which, from sovereign