

THE CALICO FANCY BALL AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOM LAST NIGHT

Was a great success, and the various costumes adopted are said to have excelled in variety and fitness those worn at any former ball in Ceylon. It was certainly the dance of the season, the costumes being most tasteful in character. Dancing was kept up with great spirit until 3:30 a.m., to the musical strains of the magnificent band of the 102nd Regiment. We append a list of these who attended:—

Armitage, Mr. C. C.	...Old Blue China.
Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. W.	...King Charles the 1st and Queen Henrietta Maria.
Armitage, J.	...Spanish Nobleman
Alexander, J. H.	...Charles IV.
Austen, G.	...Sailor
Aitken, S. R.	...Don Giovanni
Aitken, Edward	...Mephisto
Baumgartner, H. P.	...Chief Justice, <i>Never Fear</i>
Britton, Ed. C.	...The Old Style; my Father in 1806
Boake, Mrs.	...Bohemian Girl
Beck, Mrs. George	...Countess of Avergne
Boake, Mr.	...Garibaldi
Churchward, Mr. James	...Kowasjie Jehangirjee
Churchward, Mrs.	...Spanish Lady
Currie, Captain	...Shem from Noah's Ark
Charles, Mr.	...18th Century
Charles, Mrs.	...U. S. America
Cave-Browne, Edward	...Brigand
Canliffe, Walter	...Pirate
Churchill, Mr.	...Plain
Churchill, Mrs.	...Laitiere
Carlyon, G. W.	...1st Character
Cameron, Mr.	...
Creasy, L.	...2nd Do
Corfe, H. H.	...Italian Brigand
Donaldson, S.	...Clown
Fordham, G.	...Zaugoni
Duff, Mrs. C. M.	...Robin Hood
Delmege, Ed. T.	...The Knight of Kerry
Duncan, W. H. G.	...Valentine, a Gentleman of Verona
Davies, E. C.	...Chorus Singer, Massaniello
Dancer, H.	...Bherwaunel, Bombay Merchant.
Dean, J. G.	...French Cook
Duncan, John	...Over 50
De Caen, Mr. J. H.	...Pastry Cook
De Caen, Mrs. J. H.	...Zingari
Elliott, Mr.	...Paddy
Elliott, Mrs.	...Bridgett
Evatt, Mr. Henry	...A British Tar
Ferguson, Miss M. E.	...Russian Lady
Ferguson, Miss R. M.	...Mexican Gipsy
Ferguson, Miss J. E.	...Flora MacDonald
Ferguson, W.	...Plain
Fyfe, Miss	...Maldivian Lady
Fisher, Mr.	...Cavalier of Charles 1st time
Fisher, E.	...
Fassen,	...Paddy from Cork
Gordon, A. W. 102nd R. M. Fusiliers	...Seaman Royal Navy
Hall, Mr. William	...Plain
Hansard, Mrs.	...The Marchioness of Pompadour, Louis 15th, 1760
Hansard, Mr.	...Uniform
Hadden, Fred.	...Neapolitan Fisherman
Justice, Miss	...Miss Nightingale
Jackson, W. H.	...Gungaram, Bombay Merchant
Jameson, G. J.	...Spanish Peasant
Johnston, E. H.	...Policeman 25 A.
Le Mesurier, C. J. R.	...Le Chevalier
Liesching, L. O.	...Foot Ball Player
Lloyd, M. J.	...Beef Eater
MacCready, Miss	...Lady of the 18th century
Marshman, Mr.	...Plain
Mills, G. A., A.D.C.	...Mr. Mills home for his holidays, Xmas, 1800
Mitchell, F. D.	...The Ameer of Kabul
Murray, Mr. A.	...A Turkish officer of Plevna celebrity
Murray, Mrs. Alick	...Mary, Mary, quite contrary
Moir, Mrs.	...La Chasse
Makenzie Camell,	...Tartan
Mackwood, C. O.	...Waiter
Murray, W. S.	...Hiawatha
Mackenzie, J. W.	...Christiana's card
Mackenzie, G. M. D.	...Highland costume
MacGregor, M.	...Plain
MacCready, Wm.	...Gentleman of 17th century
Nevill, Mr.	...Swiss Guard, time of Louis XVI.
Nevill, Mrs.	...Lady Teazle from "School of Scandal"
Noone, Mrs.	...White and Gold China
Noone, Frederick	...El Torero
Noble, Miss	...The Hunt
Oswald, Mr.	...Newhaven Fisherman
Oates, C. C.	...Uniform
Penney, W.	...Monk
Plaxton, J. W.	...Baker or Muffin Man
Plaxton, Mrs.	...Powder and Patch
Patterson, C. R.	...Eglinton Hunt
Pears, A.	...Spanish Noble
Palmer, Capt. R.M.F.	...Baron de la Zouche (George III.)
Spence, P. G.	...Ah Sin, a Chinese Mandarin
Spence, Mrs. F. G.	...Lady of Denmark, 16th Century
Staples, Miss G.	...Gipsy Queen
Staples, Miss	...Castilian Lady
Sykes, H. R. F.	...Gentleman of 17th Century
Scott, Jas., R. M. F.	...Officer Zouaves
Shand, Mrs. J. L.	...Winter
Skinner, Mr.	...Cook
Skinner, Mrs.	...Greek Costume
Skrine, Mrs.	...A Brittany Peasant
Skrine, Duncan W. H.	...My Great Grandfather
Saunders, Miss	...Lady of 18th Century
Templer, E. R.	...Jockey
Tatham, Miss	...Cypriote Girl
Tyner, Dr.	...Volunteer
Taylor, Capt.	...Uniform
Tatham, R., junr.	...Butcher
Thwaites, Miss E.	... "Clariette" from La Fille de Madame Angot
Thomson, A.	...Bridegroom 1795—France
Templer, Miss	...Dame Trot
Vane, Hon'ble	...Black
Vane, Miss	...Elsie of the Golden Legend
Vane, Miss Laura	...Lawn Tennis
Vane, Miss E. M.	...Belinda
Vane, F. W.	...Brigand
Wilby, Miss	...Olivia
Wilby, Major-General	...Uniform
Wardrop, J. G.	...Gentleman 1408

Willisford, E. P. ...Albanian
 Willisford, Mrs. ...Over Fifty
 Warren, Col., R. E. ...Uniform
 Webster, R. ...The Khan of Khelat
 Wickwar, Master Arthur. Prince Arthur
 White, Miss ...Red Rose of Lancaster
 White, Mrs. Lancelot A. ...Spanish Lady
 Young, C. ...Bull Fighter.

(From a Correspondent.)

The ball last night was in every way a very great success and every one seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly. There were twenty-one dances on the programme, and it is saying a good deal when I tell you that the room was as crowded at the last as it was at the first dance. Every one seemed to enter into the spirit of the thing, and act up to their characters in every possible way. Mr. L. Creasy, one of the honorary secretaries, went as a clown, and afforded very great amusement indeed, as also did Mr. Delmege as the "Knight of Kerry." The characters were far more varied than in former years, and it was great fun watching the different couples as they passed by, some affording a ridiculous contrast and others again making beautiful pairs. Mr. and Mrs. Armitage as "Old blue China" were a very neat pair; their dresses were white silk with plates and goblets, worked to imitate regular China and the illusion was so perfect, that "a waiter" was overheard to say to Mr. A. that his Missus had sent him for the plates stolen. Miss Wilby as Olivia was the handsomest dressed lady in the room, her dress being a ruby colored satin petticoat, with a brocaded silk train over. Mrs. Skinner as a Greek lady was most becomingly dressed, her dress being blue silk with the national costume in white and gold over. "Flora MacDonald's" dress was much admired and showed to advantage dancing with the only Highlander present. "Lawn Tennis" was a splendid get-up, consisting of a white dress with a tennis net arranged as a scarf over, and looped up with small bats of silver and balls hung round, two small silver bats being crossed on the head to form a head-dress. Some very pretty dresses were "The Hunt," "a Russian Lady," "U. S. America," White and Gold China, and "The Red Rose of Lancaster." Some becoming dresses were a "Cypriote Girl," "A Mexican Gipsy," "A Brittany Peasant," and "A Lady of Denmark." Besides these mentioned there were the usual number of powdered heads, and pompadour costumes, which are always becoming.

Among the gentlemen's dresses there were three Paddys, and one was complete by having "Bridgett" to accompany him. A Xmas card was a novelty, and consisted of a white suit stuck all over with Xmas cards which the owner most generously distributed towards the end of the evening. "Never Fear" seemed to fear nothing but dancing, not even the heat; and "Hiawatha" made all fear him by his ferocious aspect. Shem from Noah's ark seemed as stiff as ever, and only his height prevented one from trying to put him back into the ark he seemed to have tumbled out of. A bridegroom of 1795 looked his part to advantage, as also did "A Butcher" and a "Beef-eater."

Baron de la Zouche was much admired, and Oh, sir! a Chinese mandarin, was simply splendid.

PASSING NOTES ON CEYLON AND HOME AFFAIRS.

AGRAS RE-VISITED—FINE COFFEE LAND AND "HANG THE EXPENSE"—ABSENCE OF LEAF BLIGHT—SULPHUR—DR. THWAITES, AND THE FIRST INTRODUCTION OF CINCHONA INTO CEYLON—RED-TAPE IN EXCELSIS—THE REV. DAVID MACRAE—MR. GLADSTONE "PUTTING IT NEATLY"—THE DUKE OF ARGYLL AND LORD SALISBURY.

(From an old Colonist.)

The most gratifying thing I have learned—in connection with Ceylon—for a long time, is from the article "Agra Re-visited" in the *Overland Ceylon Observer* of 14th ult. just to hand.

How is it that we have heard so little of this Company's land before? I am surprised, and somewhat ashamed to think that 2,000 acres of such coffee could exist anywhere in Ceylon without my knowing! Well done, Logie & Co.—may your great energies never flag, and may they be duly and abundantly rewarded! A very great deal will depend upon the first cost. "Hang the Expense!" has been too much the guiding principle of late, and it may be found that coffee even in, or bordering on, Badulla, can be opened or purchased too dearly; very much also will depend upon the speedy extension of the rail. The last time I had the pleasure of meeting Logie, he was still strong upon the Nawalapitiya terminus, I wonder if he continues to adhere to this.

The comparative absence of leaf blight is another piece of very good news for us by this mail. Qualified, perhaps, by the fact that sulphur does not seem to have helped more towards this improved condition. It's a pity now when sulphur is so cheap that the Island of Ceylon cannot be thoroughly dusted with it. I have no doubt whatever of the result, if a sufficient quantity could be frequently enough applied. With regard to the practicability of this, I am less sanguine. I am sorry for poor Dr. Thwaites; although he does not believe in the sulphur cure, he is an excellent man in his own groove. I have a pleasing recollection of many profitable chats with him in his own walks at Peradeniya. Doubtless he has been rather an obstructionist,—too much entangled in rusty red-tape to be of practical use to planters.

I well remember my first visit to Peradeniya—now fully 20 years ago, the Director and his Assistant—, since developed into a distinguished K.C.B.—were stooping over a small frame into which they were pricking some cuttings. *The first cinchona nursery in Ceylon!* "Busy propagating," I remarked by way of introducing myself. "That smacks," re-

plied the Dr., raising his head "as if it came from one of the craft," and we soon became friends. Years afterwards, I was stationed on the distant hills of Saffragam, but had not forgotten that little frame in Peradeniya, nor ceased to be interested in the introduction of cinchona. Indeed, no sooner had I a wattle of my own, than I selected a sheltered nook, and despatched a few intelligent coolies to the Central Province provided with batta for a week, and a letter to the Director, requesting some of the coffee plants which I then saw by the *Government Gazette* were available for the general public. Carefully did I prepare the ground, meanwhile, meditating upon the great honour of being the first to introduce cinchona south of Adam's Peak. After eight days' absence the eager-looking-for coolies returned, bearing—not bundles of plants, but—a few lines written on a large sheet of foolscap instructing me how to fill up certain printed forms of application! Imagine my disgust—it was very weak and foolish I now know, but I was too angry even to write to the *Observer*—treated the printed forms with contempt, and so punished myself and delayed the introduction of cinchona into Saffragam for fifteen years. It was in such cases as this, that the characteristic littleness of Dr. Thwaites became seriously obstructive, and it will be a great thing for Ceylon if his successor realizes the importance of rendering ready help wherever an honest desire is shown to improve or introduce useful and suitable products. Red-tape may well be reserved for use in the Herbarium.*

The association of ideas in our minds are often very ridiculous. While writing here, "a queer-looking fish" goes hirpling past my windows—none other than my neighbour, the Rev. David Macrae, the notorious, if not "everlasting torment" of the U. P. Church. Here's another man, I said to myself, who does not believe in "the sulphur cure!" and upon my soul, I do not feel disposed to disagree with him; he is doing a good work in causing people to think, though there seems a danger of going too fast and getting off the line. Already we have prayer meetings piously pleading for the speedy conversion of the devil, and long letters in the newspapers from divines seriously combating the impropriety of such meetings. It's not easy to see where we are drifting, and with regard to the old gentleman I am still disposed to act cautiously on the defensive.

MR. GLADSTONE'S OPINIONS ON THE STATE CHURCH QUESTION.—The following correspondence has taken place between Mr. Gladstone and Mr. James Whittaker, of Accrington:—

Accrington, Nov. 12, 1879.

"Dear Sir,—On two occasions during the present year the following statement has been given in this district as your opinion on the Church of England:—'Those who contend that Church and State ought to be separated know not the acuteness of satanic instinct.' This statement is said to have appeared in the *National Church* for October 1870. As this periodical is out of print, and consequently cannot be procured, will you oblige by saying whether you have ever made this statement, and if so, whether you hold the same opinion now?—I am, &c.,

JAMES WHITTAKER.

"To W. E. Gladstone, Esq., M.P."

November 14.

"Dear Sir,—The words you cite, or others like them, were used by me in a work published 41 years ago. They are probably true of all men, including certainly those who deny as well as those who assert that the Church and the State ought to be separated. But in these 41 years I have learned something. I hope those who try to mislead you by citing the words can say so much for themselves.—Your faithfully,

W. E. GLADSTONE."

It's evident from what the Duke of Argyll says regarding the untruthfulness of Lord Salisbury's statements that we must take ministerial utterances as you used to say *cum grano Salis*(bury).

SCAVENGING IN KANDY.—A correspondent asks: Why does not Capt. Byrde look after the scavenging contractor a bit? The contractor has been repeatedly reported of neglect, but nothing has been done by the Council. A walk to Katukella will convince any Councillor taking the trouble, that the contractor's people have a peculiar way of their own in carrying on the scavenging work of the town, and the sooner they are superseded by others the better.

THE LATE NAWALAPITIYA MURDER.—It is worth noticing that Lewis Mendis and most of the accomplices who stood their trial at Kandy during the present Sessions are men of Mutwal born and bred. Many of them who are now carters were originally fishermen. Their conviction is a terrible lesson to the "bravadoes" left at Mutwal, especially to one respectably born young man, who instead of by his conduct setting an example to his inferiors became their comrade and as it were their leader.—Cor.

HORSE SALE.—Notwithstanding the tightness of the money market, the sale of the Australians advertised by Mr. Gidney went off satisfactorily; the lowest being one for £19, this was the only horse sold under £22. The highest price given was £46 for a nice little dark grey cob. A pair of mares, well matched but rather "weedy" was knocked down to Mr. Vanderspaar of Galle for £80. Thirty-four out of the thirty-six advertised were all sold, the two others having been disposed of privately a day or two previously. "Midnight" the racer, was brought out, but there was no offer for her. She is to be put up for sale again with her stable companion "Ramrod" at the Circular Walk this evening after the races, and the batch of 22 Arabs are advertised by Messrs. J. B. Daniel & Co., for sale on Tuesday. Most of them are young and unbroken horses and well worth a visit of inspection.

* Nevertheless, we cannot forget what Dr. Thwaites did to give cinchona a start, and how he urged its cultivation on the planters: and on his retirement we would suggest that he should be invited to a planting, if not public, dinner in Kandy and toasted right heartily.—Ed. C.O.