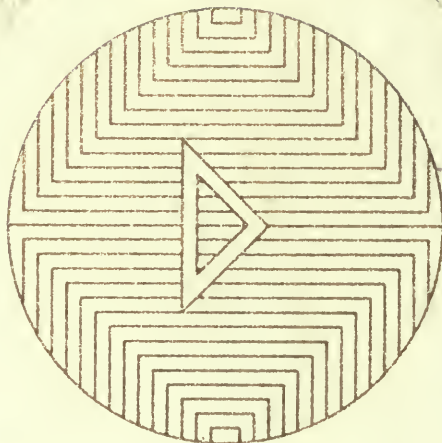
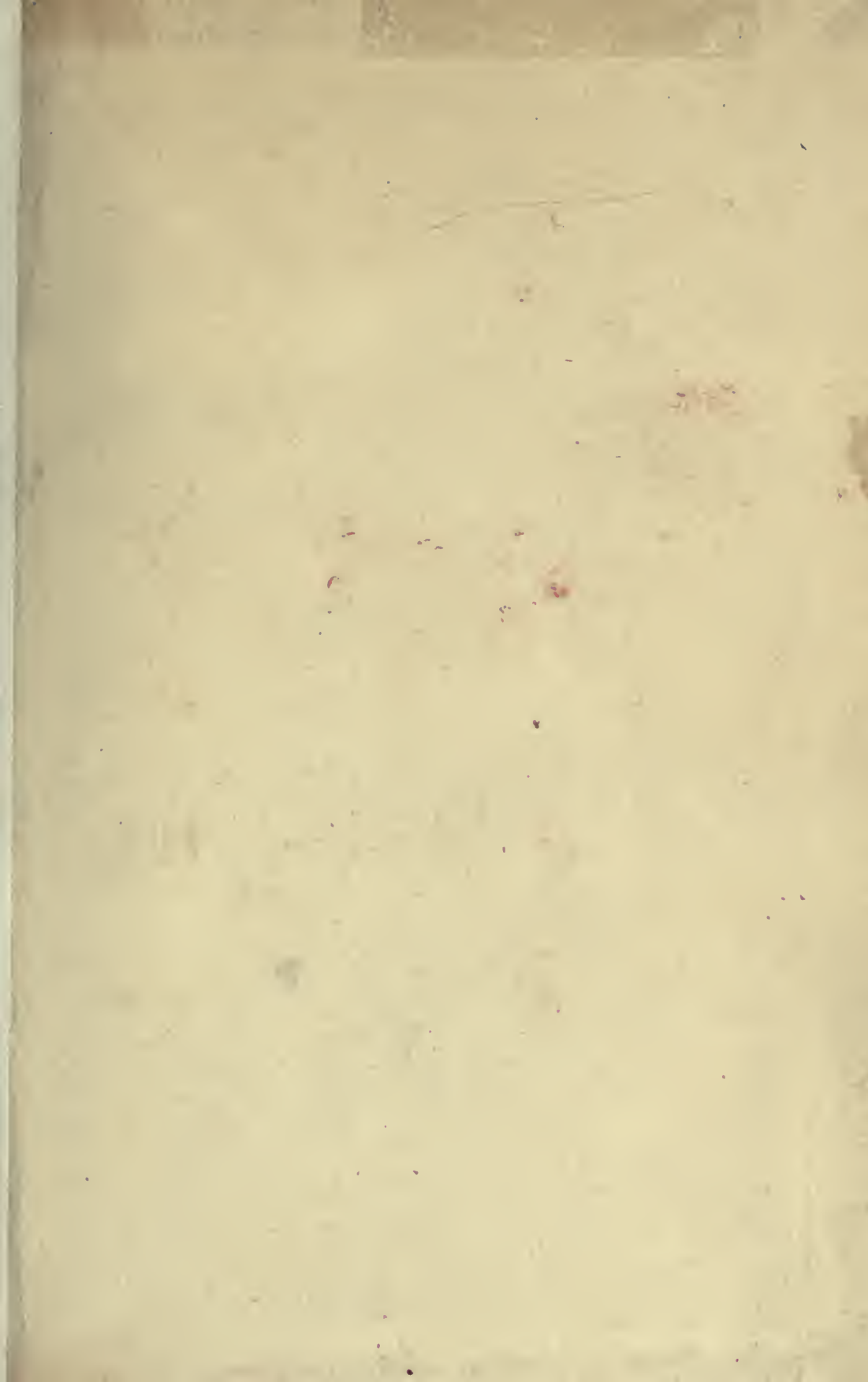
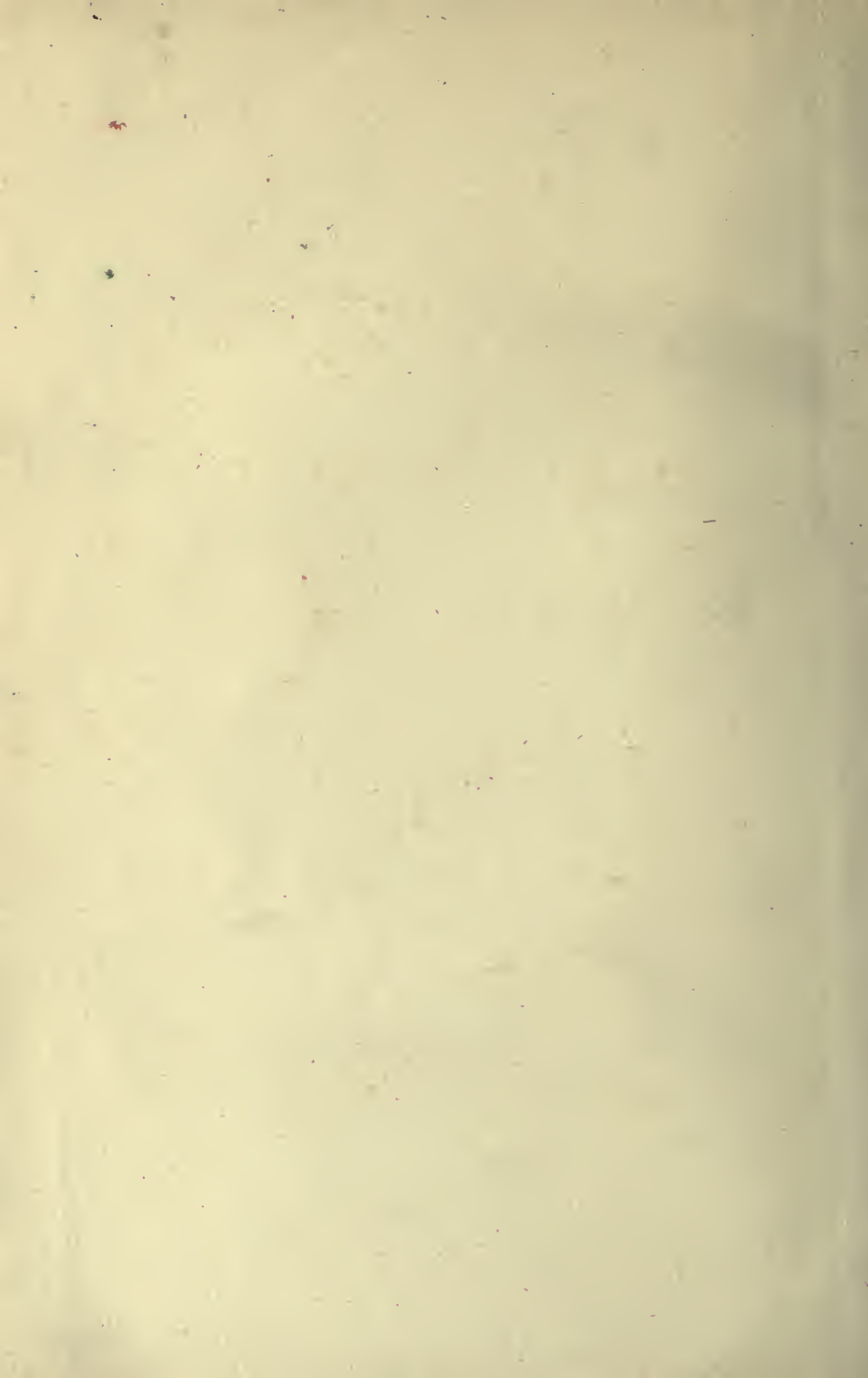


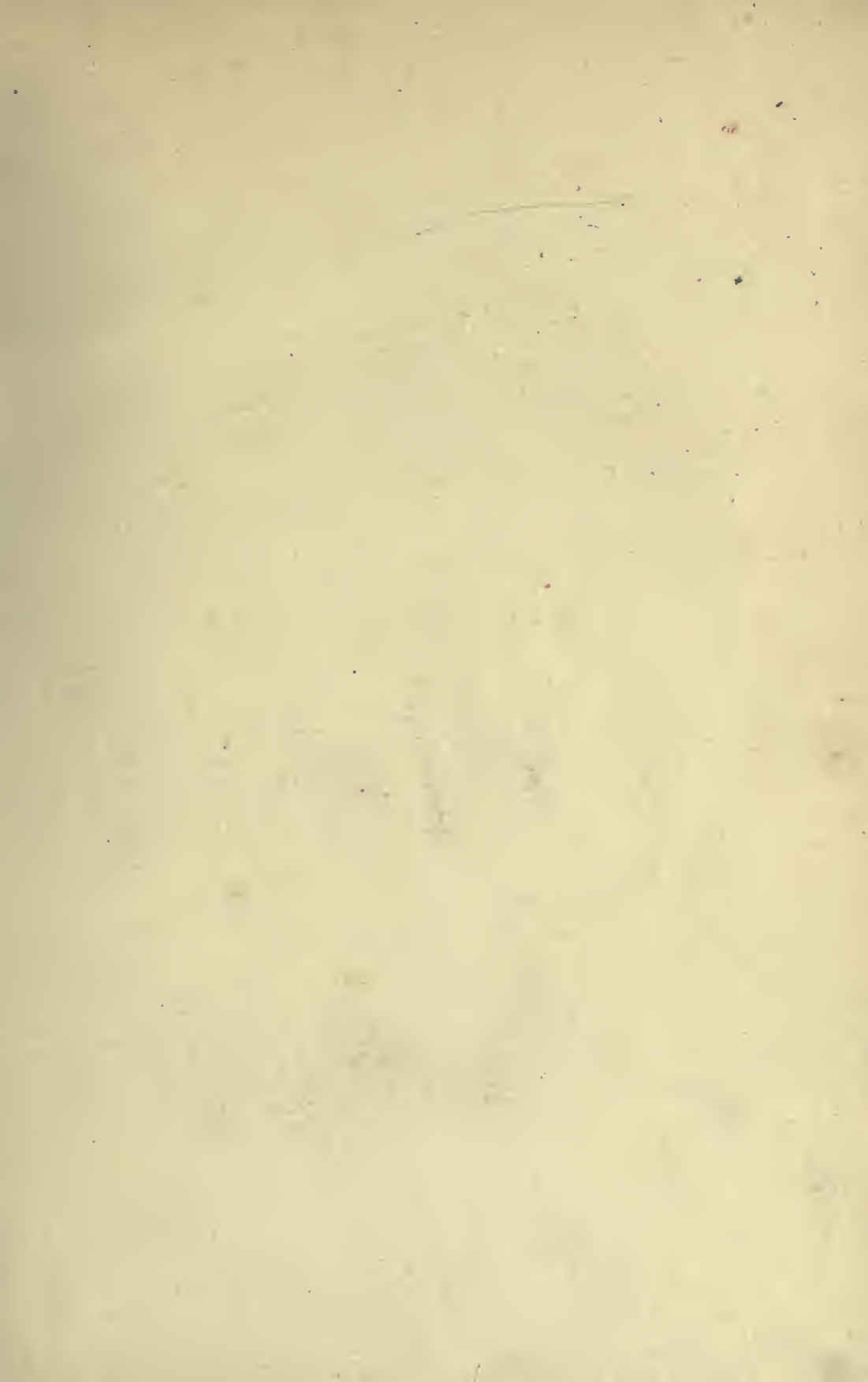
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THE BYCULLA CLUB.

From a water-colour drawing by Cecil L. Burns.

THE BYCULLA CLUB

THE BYCULLA CLUB

1833—1916

A HISTORY

BY

SAMUEL T. SHEPPARD

ILLUSTRATED BY

CECIL L. BURNS

AND WITH

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ENGRAVINGS

BOMBAY

BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD.

1916



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TO
MY GOOD FRIEND
SME
THE HISTORIAN OF BOMBAY.

PREFACE

WHEN I was first considering the idea of writing this history, I asked a learned Judge how senior members of the Club would be likely to regard the project. The reply suggested that no definite objection need be feared, and in fact that, though my elders and betters would all think themselves capable of writing a much better history, they might encourage and help me in a task for which they themselves had neither time nor taste. I am conscious of many defects in the now accomplished work and realise the truth of my friend's prophecy. He certainly was right in thinking that I should not ask in vain for help. The response to an initial circular was disappointing, but an importunate attitude at a later stage of the book's progress was not without good result. Some of the many kind friends, and members unknown to me personally, who have contributed in one way or another to this book I must more particularly mention. In the first place, I have often made use of the brief outline of the early history of the Club with which the book of Club rules is prefaced. That outline is the work of Mr. Enthoven and is largely based, as documents in the Club records show, on notes made in 1894 by the late Sir James Campbell and Mr. James Douglas. Excellently as Mr. Enthoven's work has served its purpose, it does not pretend to treat of the subject fully and there must have been many members of the

Club anxious to learn more of its history. It certainly gave me not only the key to, but the desire to expand, that history.

My readers may judge for themselves how heavy a debt I owe to Mr. Cecil Burns, whose illustrations are the most charming feature of this book and whose account of the cricket matches against the Gymkhana is a much valued addition to history. Among other helpers whom I have particularly to thank are Mr. W. S. Millard, for his account of the Club garden in which he has kindly put his scientific knowledge at my disposal. Mr. Frank Harrison and Colonel Lloyd Jones have provided many of the photographs, and among those who read the proofs in their baldest and most unattractive form and who made valuable additions to, or corrections in, the narrative are Sir Basil Scott, Sir John Heaton, Sir Charles Chitty, Colonel Merriman, and Messrs. T. J. Bennett, F. C. Rimington, J. D. Inverarity, S. M. Edwardes, E. Ferrers Nicholson and W. P. Pechey. Mr. R. P. Karkaria, whose knowledge of the history of Bombay is only equalled by the generosity with which he helps any who work in the same field of research, has contributed various facts, notably the sketch of Indian society in the 'thirties which is embodied in the first chapter. Finally, I have to record my deep obligation to Mr. G. Rose who has given me much willing help in a variety of ways at a time when he has moreover been exceptionally busy.

From no one did I receive warmer encouragement than from "Jock" Anderson who promised to contribute a sketch of the early and chaotic financial history of the Club. This, he said, would impart

an air of refinement to a work which he imagined would be modelled on the Secret History of the Court of Berlin! His death in April, 1915, deprived my readers of that sketch and of many tales from his well-stored memory. If I have rightly read the history of the Club he might be regarded as personifying the traditions of the Club. His fine presence, old-fashioned courtesy, generous nature, kindly disposition to all, love of good living and good anecdote—how he loved to tell and laugh over the jokes of other days: “You remember that one of Charles Keene’s” was a favoured conversational gambit with one who had no equal in his knowledge of *Punch*—all these qualities, as it seems to me, made him an ideal member of this Club. Another member, Adair Craigie, who joined the Club in 1866, did not live to answer my letter asking for his help. None knew more than he did of the Club and its traditions, and none I think would have taken a greater interest in this book. As the occupant of the room where he lived for so long, I have often thought of him during the work of compiling these pages. It does not require much imagination to conjure up a picture of him or to recall his well known voice, as I, when his neighbour, used to hear it through a thin partition, growling “Come here, you demon” as the morning greeting to his servant. Of another helper I was deprived not by death but by one of those accidents that may happen to anyone. Mr. George Wittet, F.R.I.B.A., started to draw for this book a picture of the hall, but left it unfinished—gæin awa’ in braw new breeks and a gouden ring to marry one of the daughters of France!

Some readers may find this history remarkable rather for what it omits than for what it contains. The author is indeed conscious of many omissions. There has, for instance, been a slurring over of many questions that have vexed past generations of Committee men. This in some cases has been intentional. It is hard to become enthusiastic over long-forgotten problems of water or drains, furniture or finance, though a spark of interest may at times be aroused by the most unlikely subjects. There is the question of lighting, for example. It may arouse faint amusement to recall that in 1864 a member about to return to England was asked to inquire about the introduction of "gas sunlight" into the Club dining room. In the following year the Committee arranged with the Bombay Gas Company to light the passages, kitchen and compound with gas, and "should the experiment be successful, hereafter the Club rooms. Handsome sun-lights would give a better light than the present oil lamps, besides affording superior ventilation, and consequently conducing to coolness of the rooms, last though not least, the system will be more economical than the one now in use, and there will not be the same opportunity for speculation on the part of subordinates." I like to imagine the ecstasy of some fussy member of the fair sex on first seeing the "gas sunlight" at the annual ball. Jane Austen's Miss Bates at the famous dance at the Crown supplies the necessary exclamations:—

So very obliging of you!—No rain at all. Nothing to signify. I do not care for myself. Quite thick shoes. And Jane declares—Well! (as soon as she was within the door), well! This is brilliant indeed! This is admirable! Excellently contrived, upon my word. Nothing wanting. Could not have imagined it. So well lighted up! Jane, Jane, look! did

you ever see anything? Oh, Mr. Weston, you must really have had Aladdin's lamp.

But after all these domestic details do not appeal to every taste: they are moreover rather difficult to discover. Their omission will not, it is hoped, deprive the image I have endeavoured to depict of any essential clearness.

S. T. S.

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CHAPTER I.

BOMBAY IN THE 'THIRTIES.



MATERIALS for the early history of the Byculla Club are very scanty. The minute-books for the first nine years of the Club's existence have not survived, and references to the founding of the Club

are infrequent in the local Press and in books dealing with the general history of Bombay. In any case to form an idea of the early days of the Club and of the circumstances in which it was established, it is necessary first to recall at least the outline of the main features of Bombay Society in the early 'thirties. Here again arises the difficulty of material. There is no comprehensive account of Bombay as it was at that period, but quotations from the writings of Mrs. Elwood and Mrs. Postans, given in the *Gazetteer of the City*, show how much more isolated was Byculla at that time compared with the present in which it is not uncommonly described as being "a long way out." It is true that Mrs. Elwood mentions numerous villages outside the Fort, such as Mazagon, Byculla, Mahim and Matunga, "the greater part of which may be considered as one town." But Bombay was then and for long after essentially the Fort. Outside that narrow compass "the Black

Town, as it is called, spreads its innumerable habitations amidst a wood of cocoanut trees—a curious, busy, bustling, but dirty quarter, swarming with men and inferior animals and presenting every variety of character that the whole of Asia can produce. The cocoanut gardens beyond this populous scene are studded with villas of various descriptions, the buildings within the fortifications being too much crowded together to be desirable. Comfort rather than elegance has been consulted in the construction of the major portion of these villas: but any defalcation in external splendour is amply compensated by the convenience of the interiors.” This isolation of Byculla was only gradually remedied by the improvement of communications, to which reference is made elsewhere in this book, and by the extension of urban conditions far into the suburbs. Members of the Club still in India relate—and it illustrates the rural character of Byculla—that during their early residence in India the Club was in so comparatively open a neighbourhood that jackals were always heard at night. One member, who lived at Breach Candy in the early 'eighties, says that in the cold weather jackals used constantly to wander past the house and go towards Malabar Hill. A few jackals even reached the Fort, and one was killed in the High Court. Douglas in “Glimpses of Old Bombay” records that in 1861 hyænas were quite common at night, prowling about the Byculla Flats, to which they were attracted by the carcasses of dead animals taken there from the Town. On December 5, 1860, a hyæna was shot while devouring a bullock not far from the Club house. In the

'seventies and early 'eighties there was good snipe-shooting in the neighbourhood of the Club. Mr. J. D. Inverarity once shot 26 couple on the site of the present race-course, and has also shot duck, golden plover, and a bittern in that locality. But in those arcadian days it was possible to ride straight from the Club across the flats to Mahim sands.

If descriptions of the physical aspect of Bombay in the 'thirties are scanty, those of social life are even more meagre; and this is the more disappointing because society in the Presidency towns has changed quite as much as the towns themselves. When Bombay residents determined to follow the example of Calcutta and Madras* a great impetus had recently been given to the Club system by the founding in London of the United Services Club. Old prejudices against Clubs, nourished by such men as the Duke of Wellington, were rapidly disappearing, and this change of thought was naturally reflected in India. When even the Duke had been converted and had allowed his name to appear on the committee of such Clubs as the Oriental, India was bound to be influenced. By 1833, however, Clubs, in the generally accepted sense of the word, were non-existent in Bombay, though society had to some extent been prepared for their establishment by the Sans Souci Club and the Highland Society. The former, founded in 1785 by Mr. Torin, senior Member of Council, was a dining club patronised by the services and business men. Correspondence relating to the making

* The Bengal Club was founded in 1827 and the Madras Club in 1832.

of speeches at the Sans Souci dinners is given in Douglas's "Bombay and Western India," from which it will be seen that the Club met for convivial feasts in Duncan Cameron's* tavern. More light, however, is thrown on that club—which did not long survive the death of the tavern-keeper in the early 'twenties—in the celebrated "Adventures of Qui Hi" (published in 1816). One of Rowlandson's illustrations in that book represents Qui Hi in Duncan's Tavern and

Our hero now, while dinner waited,
The Bombay tavern contemplated :
But first the chairs attract his eye,—
They're each engrain'd with *sans souci* :
This made the novice stand and stare—
In India people without care !
The world was only *on the chair*.

There follow two pages of moralising on the motto, and Qui Hi, who was full of cares, came to the conclusion that

Tyrants and Subalterns, the same,
Of "sans souci" can *only dream*.
Our hero then drew this conclusion
This motto could be but *illusion*.

The Highland Society was of later date than the Sans Souci Club, having been founded in Mountstuart Elphinstone's time, in 1821. Its activities do not appear to have been very considerable. It never lived up to the splendour of the dinner given to it by Elphinstone, though it justified its name by raising subscriptions for a memorial to Sir Walter Scott, and

* "It (the Byculla Club) came into existence with the downfall of the splendid establishment of Duncan Cameron, who had taken up Boyce's hotel, and from which every former proprietor had retired with a fortune. Cameron however failed : but his house was the resort of the Governor and of every fashionable élève, and the scene of many brilliant balls and bumping suppers." (*The Monthly Miscellany of Western India*, September, 1850).



From "The Oriental Annual, 1836."

BOMBAY IN THE 'THIRTIES

finally died about 1840. More learned societies were the Literary Society of Bombay, which was founded by Sir James Mackintosh in 1804, and subsequently developed, in 1829, into the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society; and the once famous but long extinct Bombay Geographical Society. Thus it will be seen that in the years preceding the establishment of the Club there had been at least a beginning of social movements—fostered by such remarkable men as Mountstuart Elphinstone and Mackintosh—which were calculated to foster the undeveloped club spirit.

Among other aspects of Bombay in the early 'thirties it should be noted, as of particular concern to the parishioners of Byculla, that the foundations of Byculla Church had been laid by Lord Clare, and it was opened in August 1833, the shareholders in it agreeing to take two sittings per share in lieu of a dividend. But that was a rare sign of civilisation in "Bombay beyond the native town" at that date. The Press of the time contains many accounts of dacoities and burglaries. "The utmost anxiety and alarm prevail amongst the inhabitants of this island, especially those residing in Girgaum, Mazagon, Byculla, and the neighbourhood, in consequence of the depredations and daring outrages committed by gangs of robbers, armed with swords, pistols, and even musquets, who, from the open and fearless manner in which they proceed along the streets, sometimes carrying torches with them, seem to dread neither opposition nor detection, and to defy the police." It was even said that sepoy of the 4th Regiment of Native Infantry, then stationed in the

island, joined these gangs of marauders, and when two men of the 11th Regiment were arrested on suspicion by a magistrate their comrades stoned the magistrate's party. "It would be far better that the island should be altogether vacated by the sepoy regiments," said the *Courier*, "than that it should be exposed repeatedly to these excesses." The strong arm of a Forjett was wanting to establish peace and quiet, and in the meantime 50 men of the Poona Auxiliary Horse had to be brought down to aid the police and to patrol the roads at night. But lest it be thought that Bombay in the early 'thirties was any more disorderly than, for instance, Calcutta is at the present time, it should be added that the inhabitants had a variety of aids, besides the local Press, to a better life. Mr. Celestino de Souza was ready to give them lessons on the Spanish guitar and M. du Cos, next door to Victorino's bakery, gave lessons in the French language, dancing, and fencing. The Amateur Theatre was flourishing and produced such masterpieces as Moncrieff's "laughable farce" *The Spectre Bridegroom*, and *The Bear and the Bashaw*. Nor was professional talent wanting as when *Un Pas Chinois* was introduced by M. du Mouckel, "formerly principal dancer at the Imperial Theatre of Rio Janeiro." There was really an abundance of subjects of conversation. Palmerston, it was often said, was to succeed Bentinck as Governor-General. Waghorn, with preposterous schemes of a steamship service to Europe, was continually boring anyone who would listen.

There were the Governor's breakfasts at Parel for which names must be entered on the previous

day with the Town Major—and they must have been worth going to in Lord Clare's day: no more cold porridge and stale jokes as in Malcolm's time. And there were the levées of the Commander-in-Chief—Sir John Keane, who afterwards took Ghazni—in his apartments at the new Town Hall. Government House, one may suppose, was each year becoming more of a social centre. "I have started," wrote Sir John Malcolm, nicknamed Bahauder Jaw by Canning, "on the comparatively moderate plan to which Elphinstone had recently come. I have a public breakfast at Parel on six days of the week, and one council-day in the Fort. Everyone comes that likes. It is a social levée, without formality or distinction. I am down half an hour before breakfast, and stay as long after it. Every human being who desires it, from writer to judge—from cadet to general—has his turn at the Governor. At half-past ten, I am in my own room, have no visitors, and am given up to business. I give a grand dinner and a dance to from eighty to one hundred every month: and a dinner occasionally to a big-wig going to England. My other dinners are to my own family. A Governor, particularly here, can have no invited private parties of persons whom he likes, for such would be deemed favourites. My equipments are as good as my station. I have three elegant carriages; and three pairs of Arabian horses. I have four or five good riding-horses; and leave the door every morning at a quarter after five, returning a little after seven—having always gone nine or ten miles, sometimes more. I drink no wine, and live very moderately." Lord Clare, less moderately, in-

roduced a French chef, and for that alone deserves a statue. His good example, as is shown in another chapter, was copied by the Club. Before his time, according to Stocqueler, Bombay was in the dark ages. Society in Bombay, he writes, "had a very good opinion of itself, but it was in reality a very tame affair. It chiefly consisted of foolish *burra sahibs* who gave dinners, and *chota sahibs* who ate them. The dinners were in execrable taste, considering the climate. A monstrous turkey, following upon a thin soup, faced a huge Yorkshire ham. Side-dishes which no Ude had ever prepared, or Very dreamt of, flanked roast-fowls and joints of kid; and vases of sickly flowers, or dismal evergreens, concealed the guests from their *vis-à-vis*. The cookery was very primitive. The wines (none of the best) indifferently cooled, and beer—veritable Hodgson—formed, with the hecatombs, the precursory to nauseous pastry, and a dessert of such insipid fruits of the country as guavas, custard apples, and plantains. But the food for the palate was scarcely so flavourless as the conversation. Nothing could be more vapid than the talk of the guests, excepting when some piece of scandal affecting a lady's reputation or a gentleman's official integrity gave momentary piquancy to the dialogue. Dancing could hardly be enjoyed with the thermometer perpetually ranging between 80 to 100° Fahrenheit, and only one spinster to six married women available for the big-wigs who were yet to be caged. A quiet tiffin with a barrister or two, or an officer of the Royal Staff who could converse on English affairs, with a game of billiards at the old hotel or one of the regimental messes,

were about the only resources, next to one's books, available to men at the presidency endowed with a trifling share of scholarship and the thinking faculty."

Stocqueler wrote as if in need of a few grains of calomel, and the accuracy of his picture may well be doubted. Society in the 'thirties was probably no better and no worse than in the present century. Conversation may have been insipid in the days when mails were infrequent and slow in the coming, but at the Government House breakfasts the comparatively novel topic of Clubs and their place in the social scheme must often have been discussed. Sir John Malcolm, who was Governor from 1827 to 1830, not improbably sowed the seed which was to bear fruit after he had left India for it was he who promoted and became the first Chairman of the Oriental Club in London. That was in 1824, at a time when it seemed that Malcolm had retired from India. Three years later he was back in India and the news of his successful enterprise in London must have spread in Western India and have stimulated any latent desire to form a Club that may have existed. There was no lack of intelligent men in Bombay to interest themselves in such a subject. The Hon. W. Newnham,* one of the Governor's three council-

* "William Newnham was a Bombay civilian of great distinction, and for twenty years Secretary to Government. You can scarcely take up a Bombay paper for the first quarter of this (19th) century without his name in it. Newnham stands first in the social scale. Governors were but birds of passage—he was a fixture, a man who was the life and soul of every movement that contributed to the happiness of the community. One day he gives two hundred guineas for a cup to be run for at the races. The next he becomes security for the debts of the Bombay Theatre, which, I think, totalled up to Rs. 30,000: the Government took his place afterwards, but that does not affect the intention. Another day he founds the Byculla

lors, was for long the outstanding figure in the Civil Service, a man eminently fitted by position and character to take a foremost part in establishing the Byculla Club, and there were several other men of note among the "senior merchants" of the Company's Bombay Establishment. There were James Farish—"a devout and exemplary Christian, his régime was marked by a more staid deportment of the community to their religious observances"—who officiated as Governor for nearly a year in the interval between Sir Robert Grant's and Sir J. Rivett Carnac's terms of office; John Wedderburn, afterwards second Baronet, the Accountant-General; Sir John Willoughby, who went to the Council of India. The tempestuous Sir John Grant of Rothiemurchus had deserted the Bombay Bench for Calcutta, and Sir John Awdry—"scholar and gentleman, of mild and pleasing address" was puisne judge. Among the clergy were the evangelical Thomas Carr, a Cambridge senior optime, who became the first Bishop of Bombay and subsequently Rector of Bath; and John Wilson, already hard at work in that "field prepared for him, which it became his special privilege to develop and adorn with all the purity of a Christian ideal and all the grace of a cultured gentleman." The educational section of society was growing, and a year or two after the foundation of

Club. His picture still hangs there to remind us of his busy life. On his retirement on December 29th, 1834, after twenty-nine years' service, a big ball was given to him by the European inhabitants at Lowjee Castle. He lived at Belvidere, kept up the sparkling traditions of that hospitable mansion, and at his leisure could see from his verandah the finest view to be had of Bombay." (Douglas' *Glimpses of Bombay*.)



Photograph of the portrait in the Club.

Face p. 10.

THE HON[']BLE WILLIAM NEWNHAM.

the Club there arrived in Bombay Messrs. Harkness and Orlebar, the first professors at the Elphinstone College. European mercantile firms were few in number, and when the Chamber of Commerce was established in 1836, its only supporters were Messrs. Skinner & Co., William Nicol & Co., Duncan, Gill & Co., Leckie & Co., Gisborne, Menzies & Co., Ritchie, Steuard & Co., MacVicar, Burn & Co., McGregor, Brownrigg & Co., Diroin, Carter & Co., Gillanders, Ewart & Co., and Firth & Co. Among these firms the outstanding figures were John Skinner, who founded the Chamber, having arrived in 1825, and William Nicol, an older resident—both intimately connected with the founding of the Bank of Bombay.

Time has revolutionised the proportions of the official and non-official elements in English society in India. In the early days membership of the Club must have been almost confined to officials, for even as late as 1850, when the membership of the Club had risen to 570, as many as 352 were military, and of the rest 80 were civil, 43 medical, 91 “merchants and others.” Four members apparently were so nondescript as to escape classification even under the comprehensive category of “merchants and others.” Of the total 570, as many as 119 were said to be absent from India.

This marked preponderance of official society, thus strikingly illustrated, has been the subject of comment by many writers. Sleeman, writing his admirable “Rambles and Recollections” in the late 'thirties before the civilising influence of the Presidency Clubs had spread to the mofussil, said: “There is in India a strong feeling of mutual dependence, that

prevents little domestic misunderstandings between man and wife from growing into quarrels so often as in other countries, where this is less prevalent. Men have not here their *clubs*, nor their wives their little *coteries* to fly to when disposed to make serious matters out of trifles ; and both are in consequence much inclined to bear and forbear." After that suggestive remark he went on to say : " There is, however, one great defect in Anglo-Indian Society ; it is composed too exclusively of the servants of government, civil, military and ecclesiastic, and wants much of the freshness, variety, and intelligence of cultivated societies otherwise constituted." It is the writer's belief that the foundation of the Club quite as much as the expansion of the European population helped to break down that caste tyranny in Bombay. It is not easy now to realise what society was like in the 'thirties, but there is a suggestive statement in Mrs. Major Clemon's " Manners and Customs of Society in India " published in 1841. That dear prig wrote : " Nothing can be more harmonious than the Society in India being all of the military or civil service, and consequently all of equal rank in society. I am more particularly speaking of the different military stations round the country, and where you will be more likely to be settled (she addresses her remarks to cadets) and not the Presidencies of India : for at Madras itself, the society being so very large, it becomes exclusive, and consequently not near so agreeable : there is less real sociability, more form, much display and rivalry, so that little intercourse takes place between the regiments stationed at, and near, Madras, with the resident inhabitants, which con-

sists of high staff officers, members of council, and the like. Officers do not visit any of the tradespeople, however respectable or rich they may be; and even what we would in England term general merchants, the officers are not allowed to be intimate with, I mean in the way of receiving and paying them visits in a friendly manner." She goes on to tell the melancholy tale of a Company's officer who used to associate with an old school-fellow who was a tradesman in Madras, and was bidden by the Adjutant-General's office to give up this intimacy or be brought before the General for disobedience. Another tale she tells is of two brothers between whom there could be no open intimacy, as one was an officer and the other "a junior partner in one of the tradesmen's houses."

Of Indian public men in Bombay in the 'thirties the majority, then as now, were Parsis. About the time the Club was founded the privilege for which they had appealed to Parliament was granted to Indians of holding commissions of the Peace by the Charter Act of 1833, and of the 14 Indians appointed under this Act nine belonged to the Parsi community, two were Hindus, two Mahomedans, and one belonged to what is now called the East Indian community. The leading Parsis of those days belonged to families which are still more or less prominent in public and civic life, with this difference that there was hardly any representative of the middle classes which have risen into great prominence in later days. Men like Pherozechah Mehta and Dada-bhai Naoroji had no place among the leaders for the simple reason that the educated classes which they

represent in our days did not then exist. Education on Western lines was only introduced in this eventful decade in the history of Bombay.

Sir Jamsetji Jijibhoy, though he did not become a Knight until 1842 and a Baronet 15 years later, was already a prominent man. He was a China merchant and had amassed great wealth, of which he spent a large portion for philanthropic purposes. Two leading men belonged to the Banaji family, which is closely akin to the Davar family, the brothers Framji Kavasji and Khurshedji Kavasji. Both were merchants and large landed proprietors. The former was a pioneer of education which he helped to popularise among the Indian communities. He was a leading member of the Board of Education, the precursor of the Department of Public Instruction established in 1854. The latter rivalled his elder brother in everything and for his magnificence was known as "Nabob Khurshedji" both among Indians and Anglo-Indians. The huge pile of buildings at Colaba called Grant's Buildings, the first structure of its kind in the city, was raised by him. The Wadia family was then in the front rank. It owed its position and influence to its connexion, which had become hereditary, with the Government Dockyard where as Master-builders its heads for several generations had acquired lasting fame by building men of war for the Bombay Marine and for the British Navy. Naoroji Jamsedji Wadia was Master Builder from 1822 to 1844. The "Asia", Admiral Codrington's flagship at the battle of Navarino, was perhaps the most renowned of the ships built by Naoroji. It survived till our own day and was

only recently broken up. The Wadia family was also represented by two younger men, one of whom survived till 1885. This was Naoroji's son Dadabhai, who, having been adopted by his uncle Pestonji Bomonji, was known as Dadabhai Pestonji Wadia. He was a prominent merchant and connected with several English firms as guarantee broker. Bomonji Hormasji founded with his younger brother, Ardashir Hormasji, the well known firm of B. & A. Hormasji. Cursetji Maneckji Shroff was a veteran in the 'thirties but still active. As an Army contractor he supplied Wellington's army with rice in 1803 and was subsequently involved in long litigation over the contract in the courts here and in England. He is commemorated near the Club by the well-known statue erected on the top of a column in Bellasis Road, by his son Maneckji Cursetji who distinguished himself in the next generation as a very prominent citizen and a judge of the Small Causes Court. Jijibhai Dadabhai, founder of a well known family called after him, was a prominent broker who helped to found the old Oriental Bank and the Commercial Bank. He was also one of the original members of the Chamber of Commerce when it was established in 1836, and took the lead in founding the original Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company in 1845 and became one of its first trustees. His son-in-law, Maneckji Nasarwanji Petit, showed his enterprising spirit by founding the Colaba Company in 1837 for effecting extensive improvements in Colaba which had recently been connected with the Fort by a Causeway.

Sir Roger de Faria, who was knighted by the King of Portugal, was the leading member of the

Goanese or East Indian community. His romantic history hardly seems to belong to the nineteenth century. In 1835 a new Viceroy came to Goa from Lisbon, but as the Viceroy in office refused to vacate his post, the newcomer came to Bombay and induced Sir Roger to lend him a large sum of money on account of the Lisbon Government, in order to fit out an expedition against his rival at Goa. The expedition, consisting of several ships with soldiers and military stores and costing several lakhs of rupees, embarked from Bombay but was lost at sea in a storm and the Viceroy designate himself escaped with difficulty. The King of Portugal strongly disapproved of this venture and refused to pay Sir Roger, who thus lost his money.

Among Hindus the most prominent in the ' thirties was Jagonnath Sunkersett, a banker with whom, as will be seen later, the Club had various financial dealings. He was one of the founders of Elphinstone College in 1835, an original member of the Board of Education, and an original Fellow of the University when it was incorporated in 1857. For his great public services the citizens of Bombay voted him in his life-time a statue which is now in the Town Hall. Dhakji Dadoji was another prominent Hindu of those days, for some time Dewan of Baroda when Captain James Rivett Carnac, who later became Governor of Bombay, was Resident there. Madhavdas Ranchordas was the leading man among the Bania caste. His grandfather Manordas became a wealthy banker and this business continued in the family. Madhavdas was commonly called the "Nagarseth", or "Lord of the town," on account

of his great wealth and influence. His son Varjivandas Madhavdas occupied a similar position in the next generation and was well known as the guarantee broker of Messrs. Graham & Co. with Sorabji Shapurji Bengali.

Mahomed Ali Rogay was the leading Mahomedan of the time, a partner with Sir Jamsetji. In 1837 he extended the Jama Mosque in Sheikh Memon Street, the principal place of worship of the Mahomedans.

CHAPTER II.

FOUNDATION OF THE CLUB.

ON September 1, 1832, *The Bombay Courier* published the following :—

“ In alluding some time since to the progress made in establishing a Club at Madras, and to the numerous benefits such an institution was calculated to afford in a society constituted like our own, we were unaware that exertions were making to follow the example set us in this respect by both the sister Presidencies. These, we are happy to say, have been perfectly successful as far as they have been carried, and as all the preliminary steps which it was desirable to take before bringing the matter to the notice of the public have been completed, the subjoined Prospectus has been forwarded to us for publication. In drawing the attention of our readers to it we have been requested to state that it has been submitted to the Right Hon'ble the Governor and to the leading members of society at the Presidency, and has met with their cordial approval. In addition to this, nearly 300 gentlemen in and near Bombay have come forward and offered their support, and a donation amounting to Rs. 8,000 has already been made. The only thing necessary therefore to secure the speedy establishment of the Club, is for the residents at out-stations to come forward at once with their powerful aid in the same manner as those of the

Presidency have done. The advantages which it will afford them are so numerous and manifest, and may at the same time be secured at such a cheap rate, that it is to be hoped they will afford it the same unanimous support which the institutions established upon a similar plan at Calcutta and Madras, have met with from persons situated like themselves. A meeting we understand will shortly take place to determine upon plans for proceeding in future, and arrangements will be made to receive the names and subscriptions of those who may wish to become members of the Club."

PROSPECTUS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CLUB AT BOMBAY.

The examples of Bengal and Madras prove that a General Club may be established at all the Indian Presidencies, and supported on a handsome scale at a very moderate expense.

There can be no doubt also that the establishment of a General Club in Bombay would afford great accommodation both to residents and members, visiting the Presidency, arriving from Europe, etc., and that it is therefore a desideratum in many respects for the whole society.

Judging from what has taken place at Bengal and Madras, the only obstacles to the establishment of a Club at Bombay appear to be organizing and arranging a system which, when complete, shall require only the support and co-operation of the several Branches of His Majesty's and the Hon'ble Company's Services, and the other members of society to perpetuate. The subscription required from each

absent member would be so trifling (not exceeding one Rupee a month) that it could not be inconvenient to the most rigid economist while, by the payment of the entrance donation in small instalments, as low even as two Rupees a month, even temporary inconvenience would be avoided.

It is found that the several Branches of His Majesty's and the Hon'ble Company's services, and the Legal and Mercantile professions contain upwards of 1,300 members of society.

Judging from what has taken place at Madras, it may be expected that at least 700 of the above will lend their support to so desirable an Institution as a Club upon the plan adopted at the other Presidencies. This number (if the rate of donations is fixed agreeably to the Madras rate, *viz.*, 70 Rupees) would at once give a capital of 49,000 Rupees and a monthly subscription of 700 Rupees.

With these funds the Club would provide furnished apartments, more or less, according to circumstances, stabling, lights and servants, almost free of expense to members occasionally visiting the Presidency; and Breakfast, Tiffin and Dinner, private or public, to all members, at any hour, and of course at the lowest possible terms—the articles of provision only being charged for.

The amusements of the Club will comprise a reading room, where the best English and Indian newspapers and periodicals will be provided; Billiard Rooms, Racket Court, &c.

The advantages of a Club on the above plan are so obvious, and its establishment so feasible, that it is confidently hoped it will meet with universal sup-

port. The appointment of a Superintending Committee, Secretary and Treasurer, will take place at a meeting of the subscribers to be convened shortly for that and other purposes.

It is proposed that subscriptions should commence from the 1st July 1832, and that the house should be ready, and the Club, if possible, commence on the 1st January ensuing.

The subscription of one Rupee per month would apply to absent members only. That for members attending the Club, and for members residing in the Club house, will of course be fixed by the Superintending Committee: but from present calculations the utmost required would be 4 Rupees for the former, and 8 Rupees for the latter, per month.

The anticipations so confidently expressed in the prospectus reproduced above were not immediately fulfilled, and, for one reason or another, there was considerable delay in carrying out the project. This at any rate was not due to any lack of booming in the local Press, for a few days after the publication of the prospectus *The Bombay Gazette* had an article, which gives so amusing an account of the moral and physical benefits that might be expected from the Club, that it deserves to be quoted in full.

“ The prospectus of this institution (the Club) is already before the public, and it is now time for us to offer some remarks on its origin and tendency ; this we shall do with greater consciousness of impartiality as the projectors have never communicated with us on the subject and we can therefore approach it

unbiassed by inculcated opinions and unflattered by solicitations to support. The first thing which strikes us is a sentiment of surprise that such an Institution should never have been proposed before, but in looking into the causes of this supineness we readily find it in that spirit of egotism, of solitary selfish ostentation and repulsive individuality which has for a long time characterized Indian life and manners. Placed not unfrequently in secluded situations, and almost always on liberal allowances and in posts of authority, our countrymen in India of the olden days soon forgot their middle extraction, their moderate valuation of their own consequence and the mutual dependence which in an equal society all members must have upon each other. Exercising the function of rule over another race marked for their servility, they acquired from situation those ideas of self importance, egotism and exclusiveness which the aristocracy in other countries derived from birth or education and each, like the ancient Baron or the Feudal Chief, began gradually to move in an orbit of his own, surrounded by his own satellites and retainers, scorning with such ample means within himself to be dependent on his neighbours for any enjoyment and careless for a similar reason of contributing in any measure to their gratification or convenience. Hence every man must have his own bungalow, his own suite of servants, his own horses and carriages, his own cellar, his own library, his own nautches and balls, his own everything. If he had occasioned to communicate on the most trifling business instead of taking a minute's walk or ride, he sent a chit with his own peon or orderly, if he

travelled, it must be with his own retinue, horses and tents, if he wished to enjoy society, it must be at his own table. Hence no such thing as mail coach, a penny post, a respectable café or public room, or any of the public conveniences which are so necessary to society in Europe, have hitherto flourished in India. But economy and retrenchment have come at last and with them a more moderate estimate of self and a greater sense of dependence upon others; make a man totally independent of his neighbours and his nature will render himself sufficient and careless of them. Place him in some points of dependence of them and his interest will make him in the same proportion courteous and neighbourly—this change has now begun to operate in India—our countrymen curtailed in their power and shortened in their means no longer bahadurise in solitary grandeur—self is no longer an all sufficient centre round which to revolve and drawn by the strong attraction of mutual wants the hitherto separated chiefs begin to gravitate towards each other. Libraries, reading rooms, retiring funds, and societies of every kind begin to be more encouraged, and at length the most needed and most useful of all, a public club has been mooted and set on foot. The mere physical advantages of comfort and cheapness, which must result from such an establishment, are well worthy of consideration. The new arrivals instead of being poisoned by pork sausages, devoured by fleas and mosquitoes, infected by dirty linen, choked with dust and impertinence in a wretched tavern—instead of enduring the supercilious examination and cold welcome of the great man to whom

they bring letters of recommendation, instead of resorting to a tent and being plundered by durbashes, butlers, and chutrywallas—will have a comfortable asylum ready to enter at once, presenting every convenience cheaply provided, honest attendance, and an immediate introduction to respectable society. The gentlemen arriving from the mofussil either for health, pleasure or business, will no longer be obliged to roam about like the babes in the wood in quest of a spot of rest, and that portion of the community permanently resident in Bombay will have a respectable place of resort, where they can at all times command refreshments, news, conversation and society, at a price far below what any individual must at present pay for the same on the every-man-for-himself and God-for-us-all system.

“Such will be the leading physical benefits of this institution. Its moral influence on the community will be still more benign. People will be brought more together; their asperities and angular parts will be worn off and polished in the collision. They will begin to think more justly of themselves when contrasted with others. Self and egotism will be battered down—the “*Esprit de corps*” will itself be softened and merged in a far better “*Esprit de Société*” which will improve all classes, and bind them more together. Men will become less valued for their situation and more for themselves, intelligence will be more spread, public spirit more cherished, and a sulky, supercilious, suspicious, repulsive behaviour give place to good breeding, cordiality and kindly feeling. With such an opinion of the tendency of this establishment we need hardly add we wish to

see it flourish. We believe it has already had promises of support in almost every quarter ; if any, however, have still kept aloof, we recommend them, if generous and given to good actions, to promote it for others' sake, if selfish for their own."

In spite of that apocalyptic view of the as yet unborn Club—suggestive of Mr. Podsnap speaking of the Constitution—the public of Bombay failed to respond to the invitation of the prospectus. No further reference to it is to be found until February 12, 1833, on which day a letter appeared in *The Bombay Courier* from "A subscriber", dated from "Jungles." "What", wrote that correspondent, "has become of the 'Bombay Club' ? To the best of my recollection *the thing was to be set agoing* as it was *elegantly* termed, on or about the commencement of the present year, but nothing have we heard of its progress, with the exception of a *Secretary* being appointed. Could we not, Sir, take a few hints from our friends at Madras ? The club already goes on with vigour and regularity, and like the Oriental in London, entirely answers the end of its institution." The writer of that letter did not have to wait long for an answer to his inquiries, for on March 30, 1833, the following appeared in *The Bombay Courier* :—

BOMBAY CLUB.

A general meeting of the Subscribers to the Bombay Club was held on Saturday, the 16th instant, at the Town Hall.

William Newnham, Esq., was requested to take the chair.

The Chairman then proceeded to the business of the day by congratulating the meeting on being able to assure them, that the Committee of Management had at length, after a variety of great difficulties,* succeeded in their endeavours to procure a suitable house for the Club, should the opinion of the members at large be in favour of its being established in the country beyond the Native Town. In that case the Club House might be completed on a scale of comfort and elegance equal to the most sanguine expectations, and be open for the reception of members, before the setting in of the monsoon. He begged to call the attention of the meeting to the report of the Committee, which would show what had been done

* A similar difficulty in obtaining a Club house was experienced in Madras, as will be seen from the following extract from *The Madras Courier* of April 17, 1832 :—“ On Wednesday last we understand a meeting of the committee of management of the Madras Club was held at Mr. Turnbull’s Gardens when the report to be submitted to the next general meeting of the subscribers was agreed upon. We are happy to find that the committee have paid a very proper compliment to His Highness the Naib-i-Mookhtar of the Newanb of Carnatic in requesting his acceptance of the office of Patron of the Club in conjunction with, and with the concurrence of, the Right Honourable the Governor. It will be in the recollection of our readers that this public spirited Prince has for a long period past given a splendid cup at the Annual Turf Meeting at Madras, and that he has on many occasions lent the Ameer Baugh for public entertainments and as a residence for distinguished persons of this and other Presidencies. On the present occasion His Highness understanding that the Committee of management experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining suitable premises for the use of the Club, liberally came forward with an offer of this princely mansion for their accommodation until some permanent arrangement could be effected for its establishment in a convenient and suitable situation. It is understood that the Club will not avail themselves of His Highness’ offers of the Ameer Baugh as the Committee of Management are in treaty for Mr. Webster’s house on the Mount Road, which is admirably adapted to the purposes of the Club and most conveniently situated for all parties belonging to it. It is hoped that the Club will be opened on the 15th proximo.”

since the first general meeting, and would, he hoped, satisfactorily account for the long delay which had so unavoidably taken place.

The following report of the committee of management was then read :--

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

Before proceeding to the immediate business of the meeting, the Committee of Management feel themselves called upon to account to the subscribers for the long delay which has taken place since the first general meeting.

In compliance with a wish expressed at that meeting, that the Club should be established, if possible, in the Fort or on the Esplanade, a sub-committee was immediately appointed to ascertain if any place could be procured in the Fort, which would answer for the purposes required, even as a temporary measure, while some other place was being prepared. In the report of this sub-committee given in on the 19th October, they stated that there was no place procurable in the Fort, nor did they see any probability that there would be any which could be applied in the manner desired.

Under these circumstances, it was resolved that application should be made to Government requesting their permission for the erection of a Club House on the Esplanade, after the temporary manner observed in the other Bungalows in that quarter.*

* Mrs. Postans, describing Bombay ("Western India in 1838, I., p. 13), says :—"During the hot season, the Esplanade is adorned with pretty, cool, temporary residencies, erected near the sea ; their chuppured roofs and rustic porches half concealed by the flowering creepers and

Owing however to causes over which the Committee had no control, no answer to this was received till the end of November, when it was intimated in reply that it was out of the power of Government to allow any ground for the Club within the defences of the Fort.

That nothing might be left untried, another Subcommittee was requested to ascertain if any ground was procurable on the verge of the Esplanade, or shore of Back Bay, where the Club could be established; when it was found that no place could be procured on either of the above situations, which could answer for the purposes of the Club.

Unwilling to leave anything undone in the Fort or Esplanade, the Committee next turned their attention towards the Theatre* which it was intimated

luxuriant shrubs, which shade them from the mid-day glare... The material of which they are made is simply bamboo and plaster, lined with strained dungaree, dyed a pale strand colour... At the approach of the monsoon, the occupants of these fragile residences take down and house such of the building materials as may be available for the following season, and retire to more substantial dwellings."

"The western part of the Esplanade towards the sea is covered with tents from November to June, even permanent Bombay residents often pitching tents for that time; and towards the south-western corner there are squares marked off with cane fences, one of which is given to each of a certain number of great people, who have the privilege of building in it a temporary bungalow of boards and thatch, and filling the space round the house with shrubs in pots, etc., as soon after the rains as they like, but everything must be cleared away by the 6th of June." (Letter from Bartle Frere, dated Feb. 4, 1835, quoted in his "Life").

* The original Bombay Theatre, which stood on the old Bombay Green (Elphinstone Circle) was built by subscription in 1770, and for a few years only managed to pay its way. The ground upon which it stood was granted by Government unconditionally and the building was vested in trustees. Unfortunately the proceeds of the performance did not suffice to keep the building in proper repair, and in 1818 it had become so delapidated that Government were obliged to make a fresh grant for its renova-

would be given up for the Club, but it was ascertained on reference after some unavoidable delays that the property could not be made over or applied to any other purposes but those for which it is at present appropriated.

Having therefore tried every expedient which could be suggested with a view towards meeting the wish expressed at the first general meeting, and having failed in all, the Committee turned their attention to the country, and are happy to state that they have been so successful in their endeavours as to be able to assure the subscribers that the Club House may be got ready for their reception before the monsoon, on a scale of comfort and convenience equal to what could have been afforded, had they been able to carry their original plan into execution.

The plan which they propose is repairing and adding to the "Grove",* a place, which besides the great advantages it derives from its contiguity to the Fort, and Mazagon Bunder, and its peculiarly fine situation on an elevated ridge, in the centre of an extensive garden, is on a plan so admirably adapt-

tion, on condition that it was used solely for public theatrical entertainments. The renovated building was finally opened in 1819 with a debt of Rs. 17,000, which gradually increased to Rs. 23,000 about 1836. The chief creditors were Messrs. Forbes and Company. Government thereupon discharged the debt, took possession of the theatre and sold it for Rs. 14,870, the remainder of the debt being defrayed from the proceeds of the sale of the site which realised Rs. 27,000. This left a balance in the hands of Government, which it was decided, at a public meeting in the Town Hall in 1836, should be devoted to building a market and subsidising a central library and dispensary. (*Bombay City Gazetteer*)

• The house still stands, opposite the Mazagon Post Office. The neighbourhood is no longer attractive, but not without an air of bygone romance and splendour. The garden of the Grove is partly occupied by an ice factory.

ed for a Club House, that the necessary alterations and additions may be completed in the short period above alluded to.

The Committee are aware that objections may be raised to their laying out any of the funds on a place which is not the property of the Club, but they are confident that when it is considered that the immense value of property in Bombay is such that the whole funds of the Club would scarcely suffice for a house alone in the country, and would barely purchase mere building ground in the Fort, the advisableness and necessity of the plan recommended will be so obvious, that such objections—should they be thought to exist—will be entirely removed ; for, as they can keep the above premises as long as they please (and there is not in their opinion any other place on the Island so well adapted for the purposes of the Club to which it might hereafter be deemed advisable to move) they think that a small portion of their monthly receipts cannot be better appropriated than in renting so desirable a place, it being absolutely necessary to build, no house in the Island having near sufficient accommodation for the purposes of a Club House.

The Committee now therefore proceed to submit to the meeting the following abstract of what they propose carrying into effect :—They propose engaging the house and ground of the Grove on a rent of 225 Rupees a month, to be held as long as it is deemed expedient, on the payment of the above rent : the present building will be adapted for public rooms : a range of four sleeping rooms will be prepared over the North Wing, and another four rooms

in the garden adjoining ; which can be hereafter added to, as it is found expedient. Billiard rooms and a smoking room also will be erected in different parts of the Garden. For these alterations and additions it is estimated that about 20,000 Rupees will be required. The furniture, plate, and all other necessary expenses on the most comfortable scale, a careful estimate shows, will be within a similar sum of about 20,000 Rupees, which leaves a balance of about 21,000 Rupees, the funds of the Club showing a total of 64,085 Rupees : and deducting 5 per cent. for Contingencies there remains 60,881. Of this, as it becomes realised, part can be appropriated to the erection of a Racket or Tennis Court, and other sleeping rooms, should they be deemed necessary. The balance, the Committee would recommend, should be left in the Treasurer's hands for any contingency which may occur.

Several members present stated that they thought the distance an insuperable objection to having the Club House in the country, as it would be a source of so much inconvenience to all, especially members from Out-stations.

Some houses at Byculla were also reported available for the service of the Club.

The following question was then put to the vote —

Whether measures should be taken for establishing the Club in the manner recommended by the Committee or not.

The question was carried in the affirmative by a majority of 2.

Mr. Newnham observed that, though the question had been carried for the establishment of the Club in the Country, by a small majority of the members present, yet the Committee could not proceed with the plans, when opposed by so large a body of the members, without previously ascertaining the general wishes of the Subscribers at large. He did not, however, see how the distance could prove so serious an objection : at Madras, it was much greater.—He perfectly agreed, in the opinion, that the Esplanade or a good part of the Fort would have been more desirable for the Club than the one proposed : but he begged the attention of the meeting to several of the detailed proceedings of the Committee of Management, (which he read) and which he thought must convince everybody that nothing had been left untried in either of the above situations. If, however, any members still thought such a plan feasible, he was sure all present would feel most thankful to them, if they would form themselves into a Committee, to see what might be done. He held in his hand a copy of a code of rules, which had been drawn up by the Committee with much care and deliberation, but which he would defer reading till the first and most important question was decided.

Colonel Pearson proposed that a set of Tents or Bungalows should be erected on the Esplanade during the fair season, and the establishment broken up during the monsoon, or a house rented, if possible, in the Fort.

The proposition was seconded by Mr. Doveton but no further proceeding adopted : after a variety of discussions, it was finally resolved—

1st.—That the Managing Committee be requested to consider the possibility of adapting the present Racket Court premises for the purposes of the Club.

2nd.—That the thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Newnham for his kindness in taking the chair and the warm interest he has so unremittingly displayed in the prosperity of the Club.

3rd.—That the meeting be adjourned to Thursday, the 11th instant.

An adjourned meeting attended by only a few members was held at the Town Hall on Thursday, the 11th instant, when a report was read of the terms on which the Racket Court premises could be alone obtained. These however were of such a nature as to preclude all hope of their being acceptable, even if the premises in other respects should be considered suitable for the purposes of a Club House.

T. M. DICKENSON,

Secretary.

Nothing came of this scheme to settle in Mazagon, nor did the counter-proposals already mentioned progress. But by June, 1833, the Club had established itself in the Byculla Assembly Room. Unfortunately there are no early records in existence and it is impossible to give the exact date of that important episode in the Club history. It seems a plausible conjecture that the Club, up to that time called the Bombay Club* was, when first housed, called the

* The first "Bombay Club" was founded in London and not in Bombay, as may be seen from Mr. Ralph Nevill's book on London Clubs (published by Chatto and Windus, 1911). "A hundred years ago," he writes, "there were several institutions connected with the East in the West end. Such

New Bombay Turf Club, but that the name was almost immediately changed to Byculla Club.*

Douglas in "Glimpses of Old Bombay" writes:—

"The Race Stand was built in six months and was to be opened on 1st January 1822. It was thus elegantly described in the pages of the *Courier*:—The body of the building in figure is nearly that of a square and consists of a principal floor supported by a rustic basement from the north or principal entrance of which is projected a colonnade of the purest Grecian Doric surmounted by a tastefully constructed iron ballustrade which encompasses the balcony on a level with the principal floor and with which it immediately communicates by means of a longitudinal range of folding sashes. The Byculla Race Stand contains an assembly room for ladies

were the Calcutta Club, the Madras Club, the Bombay Club, and the China Club, frequented chiefly by merchants and bankers. These, however, were in reality associations rather than clubs. The Bombay Club was located at 13, Albemarle Street, and consisted of one large news-room and an ante room. It opened at ten in the morning and closed at midnight, light refreshments being obtainable of the porter, whilst smoking was strictly prohibited."

An engraving "skied" in the Club writing room has the following lettering:—"The Cubeer Burr, or great Banyan tree. Dedicated to W. Hornby, Esq., and gentlemen of the Bombay Club. By J. Walcs, engraved by J. Phillips." Another illustration of this famous tree on the Nerbudda appears in Forbes' "Oriental Memoirs" and a description of it is given in Bishop Heber's "Narrative" (Vol. II. p. 171.)

* The name Byculla, which profane jesters have often turned into bicolour, is said to be of great antiquity. Sir J. Campbell derived it from *bhaya khala*, the *Cassia fistula* (i.e., Indian laburnum) level—*bhaya* being a local Kunbi form of *bawa*. The Marathi for that tree, however, according to Brandis' "Indian Trees" is *bahawa*. Mr. R. P. Karkaria suggests to the author that the word may mean "low ground," *bhaya* ground and *khala* low. Rao Bahadur P. B. Joshi on the other hand asserts that it means the *khala* or threshing ground of *Bhaya* (the name of an individual), or the threshing ground containing prominently a *bhaya*, or *bahwa*, tree.

48 feet long, 24 feet broad, tint of the walls maiden's blush, admirably adapted for dinners and balls on a limited scale. It is entered from a commodious landing place in the middle having an anti-chamber on each side, which also communicates with the principal apartments." That it was found to be limited is evident from an entry under date, 18th February 1826 :—" Ball at Race Stand unavoidably abandoned, the limited accommodation of the building being found inadequate for the purpose." A great number of men were members of both clubs and when at their wits' end would very likely cast an eye on the Race Stand buildings. Be that as it may be, we have evidence sufficient that the Turf Club made over their interest in the Race Stand to the Byculla Club—when, and how, and for what consideration, I know not. But it does not matter. In the *Courier* of January 1834 is this notice :—" We have been requested to notice that though *the Race Stand has been given up to the Byculla Club*, it will be open as usual during the races to those ladies and gentlemen who wish to see the running." I have italicised what seems to be beyond a doubt that the Race Stand which still exists as a portion of the Byculla Club had been some time previously made over to it. The following advertisement may have had reference to this transference, and may have been one of the " questions of importance " submitted to the meeting :—" The New Bombay Turf Club call a meeting of subscribers in the Club room on 14th instant to discuss questions of importance, Bombay, 6th June 1833." The transference of the Race Stand may be supposed to be one of those questions. If this

theory of mine is correct, the Race Stand built in 1821 was the nucleus of the Byculla Club buildings, and still remains as that place which year after year is graced by the beauty and fashion of Bombay."

To that account by Douglas need only be added the following advertisement from *The Bombay Courier* :—

BYCULLA CLUB.

The Monthly Meeting of the Committee will take place at the CLUB ROOM, this day, at 1 o'clock p.m.

A Ballot for the admission of candidates will also be held at 3 o'clock.

Club Room, 1st July, 1833.

By that time the Club was in full swing, and an advertisement published at the end of the year shows that the Committee had begun to be occupied with the cares of office, for they were asking for tenders "from persons desirous of contracting to paint" the Club House.

CHAPTER III.

DEVELOPMENT AND REMOVAL SCHEMES.

To the original pair of public rooms additions were very shortly made, but it is difficult to determine what they were. The earliest reference to new buildings in the surviving minute books is under the date, 6th June, 1842, when the Secretary furnished the following statement :—

“ The sum of Rs. 35,300 was passed as the amount to be expended on the buildings and improvements on the Club House and compound under date December, 1840, as follows :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Purchase of ground	11,500	0	0
Sleeping rooms	13,500	0	0
Billiard rooms	6,500	0	0
Outhouses	3,800	0	0
	35,300	0	0

“ But this was exclusive of a fowl house.

Expended.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Purchase of ground	12,000	0	0
Bed rooms and outhouses	15,281	6	2
Billiard rooms	7,460	0	0
	34,741	6	2

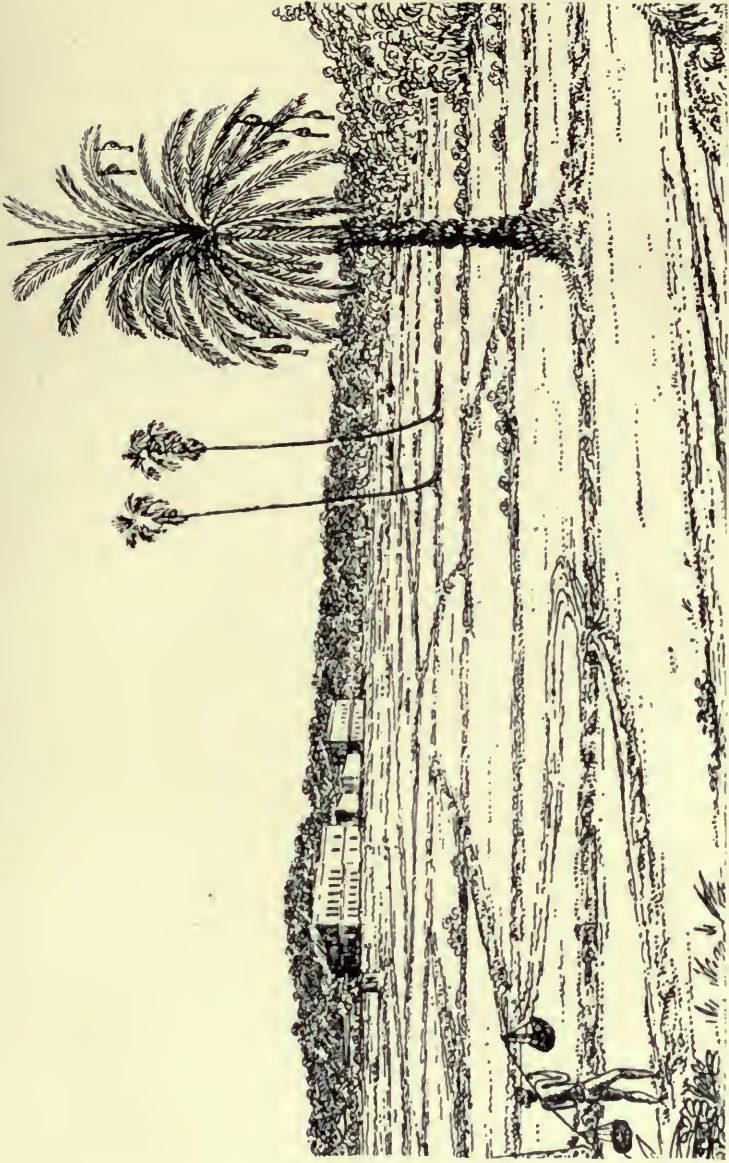
Additional stabling, fowl house, and servants' house at	Rs.	a.	p.
	4,000	0	0
Total Rs.	38,741	6	2

The buildings referred to in that statement must have been almost the first additions, for the half yearly account for June, 1842, gives the "value of house and ground" at Rs. 54,435-1-7. One may suppose that the original rooms and a small piece of ground with them were nearly worth the difference between Rs. 54,435 and the value of the new buildings. But there seems to have been one earlier addition before those sanctioned in 1840, for the minutes for 1842 contain the following suggestion:—

"That wall shades be put up in the side dining room for the purpose of lighting it when required for private parties, the said light being used only when ordered and then paid for by the parties giving the entertainment."

What and where was the side dining room? Where were the billiard rooms? Fortunately it is possible to hazard an answer as there were issued in 1842 Mackenzie's sketches of Bombay* which include two of the Club. The draftsman was at no great pains to secure accuracy in architectural detail or a correct perspective, but he has left a fair idea of what the Club looked like when it consisted

* "A series of pen sketches of scenery in the Island and Presidency of Bombay, by George Mackenzie, late Captain, Queen's Royal Regiment, 1842." The lithographed sketches, once well known, are now rare. As works of art they were scarcely worth preserving, but their topographical value is by no means small.



CAPTAIN G. MACKENZIE'S SKETCH OF THE CLUB.



of little more than reading and writing rooms and a billiard room holding one table. The present billiard room is an extension of the original room, to which, as exploration in the basement of the Club shows, about twelve feet in width and fifteen in length were added when the room was first enlarged, in 1845-6. Its position is clearly shown in Mackenzie's sketch. The side dining room, however, is less easily located.

In 1844 it was proposed by Mr. J. Gordon, and seconded by Lieut. Suart, that "As the debts of the Club do not exceed Rs. 14,000, and as the assets at a moderate valuation amount to Rs. 82,000, and as the surplus annual income is nearly Rs. 12,000 for this year—it is proposed that the Committee be empowered to lay out the sum of Rs. 30,000 in improving the building and that they be requested to put themselves in communication with Lieut. Suart and if possible adopt the plan proposed by that gentleman, which will add a room * 75 feet by 30 on one side and give a handsome staircase and entrance on the opposite side of the present building."

The new building scheme seems to have been taken in hand at once. A Mr. Clark was asked to superintend the work in return for 5 per cent. on the outlay by contract and a further remuneration for plans drawn by him; and members were invited to subscribe to a building fund to be raised by debentures of

* The room in question is of course the dining room. A revised plan determined the measurements as 70 ft. \times 40 ft. from pilaster to pilaster, and the height 28 ft. But the plan of the buildings subsequently made by Mr. John Adams, the architect, gives the height as 30 ft. He gives the measurements of the billiard room, as 65½ \times 34½.

Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 500. In March, 1844, the plans made by Mr. Clark were "approved of, with the exception of the centre of the room which the Committee think should be as plain as possible, uniform with the rest of the room and that the door be a large square door unarched." In September of the same year Captain Suart laid the plans of the intended alteration before the Committee, which were presumably approved, with an estimate amounting to Rs. 36,213, the items as follows :—

	Rs.
Staircase room	5,581
Billiard room	9,532
Portico	5,600
Large room	17,500
	<hr/>
	38,213
Deduct old materials ..	2,000
	<hr/>
Rs. ..	36,213

This was shown and approved and it was resolved that "six iron columns for the entrance and twelve for the portico, as well as iron rails for the orchestra and staircase be ordered from England." The iron columns, obtained from Messrs. Forester, became rather a white elephant. To pay for them the Club had to contract a loan of Rs. 6,000 from Captain Suart, and then an attempt was made, but without success, to sell them to Government.* Being unable

* Iron pillars seemed to go a-begging. Maclean's "Guide to Bombay" says of Christ Church, Byculla :—"The foundation stone was laid by Lord Clare, the then Governor of this Presidency, who further evinced his interest in the work by making a grant of the iron pillars in the interior, which had been originally intended for the Town Hall."

to dispose of the columns, the Committee had no alternative to using them for the purpose for which they had originally been ordered, and by 1850 the portico had been completed at a further cost of Rs. 2,818. The billiard room and hall were completed and "rendered comfortable for members" in 1846. But the dining room was as yet unfinished. Its construction was in 1846 being supervised by "Signor Augusto," who was presumably the Portuguese architect who designed and built Christ Church, Byculla, in the early 'thirties. There was, however, a scarcity of money, and there was a bill of Rs. 4,031-5-1 to be paid for carpenters' and bricklayers' work before the room could be ready for use, and Mr. Augusto's commission amounted to Rs. 1,218-12-0. By July 1847, not only was the room finished, but the finances of the Club were declared to be, "very satisfactory." It was therefore decided to pay for the work done and to build a verandah round the new room at an estimated cost of Rs. 6,397. Then arose another expensive question that of lighting the new rooms. Chandeliers for the dining room had been bought, but not paid for, in 1846. Their cost was Rs. 5,000.

A survey of the buildings—by Mr. R. Brock, "a professional surveyor and the first assistant to the superintendent of affairs"—was made in 1854 and the following report was made:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
The building in which is the large ball room	17,937	0	0
The other principal bunga- low including portico ..	40,346	0	0

	Rs.	a.	p.
Sleeping apartments ..	15,010	0	0
Old kitchen	1,732	0	0
New kitchen	3,289	0	0
Servants' apartments ..	2,243	0	0
New passage*	544	0	0
Range of stables, etc. ..	9,977	0	0
Platforms for 5 tents ..	250	0	0
Skittle ground and shed ..	60	0	0
Stands, etc., on race course.	300	0	0
	<hr/>		
Total Rs. ..	91,688	0	0
<i>Deduct</i> —30 per cent. as the probable amount of dif- ference if sold	27,506	6	4
	<hr/>		
Total value of buildings..	64,181	9	8
Probable value of ground.	5,600	0	0
	<hr/>		
Grand Total Rs. ..	69,781	9	8
	<hr/>		

It has already been stated that the building of some "sleeping rooms" was sanctioned in 1840. They were at first let at the daily rate of Rs. 1-8-0 furnished (reduced in 1845 to Re. 1) and Re. 1 unfurnished. In 1854 it was decided to build a new range of sleeping rooms and for that purpose to raise Rs. 30,000, which Mr. Henry Liddell, of the Civil Service, consented to lend; and by January 1856, the building was finished and nine of the twelve sets of rooms were occupied. A new kitchen and out-houses had been built at the same time.

* From the Club to the sleeping rooms.

In 1859 the Club was valued as follows :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Land	43,000	0	0
Buildings	1,31,000	0	0
Furniture, etc.	21,200	0	0
	1,95,200 0 0		

The land then consisted of 46,600 square yards freehold and of a 99 years' lease of 15,636 square yards.

The debt of the Club was Rs. 89,000, represented by 84 debentures bearing interest at 7 per cent. and a Promissory Note for Rs. 5,000, in favour of Jag-gannath Sunkerseth. Congratulating the members on

this state of affairs the Com-
mittee said :—“Up to 1853
the debt of the Club had
been increasing from Rs.
60,000 to Rs. 85,000 with
no perceptible increase in

its income, the average amount of which, from 1849 to 1853, is shown in the margin : a great addition was made in 1853 to its debt by the new debentures raised for the new sleeping rooms, but since then so much has been paid off that we find our debt but Rs. 10,600 more than in 1853, while we have increased our property by a lakh and our annual income Rs. 7,500.” In advocating a new arrangement with the Trustees, the Committee pointed out that the “dinner equipage” was insufficient, there was not a book in the reading room, the compound was unfenced, the stabling was inadequate,

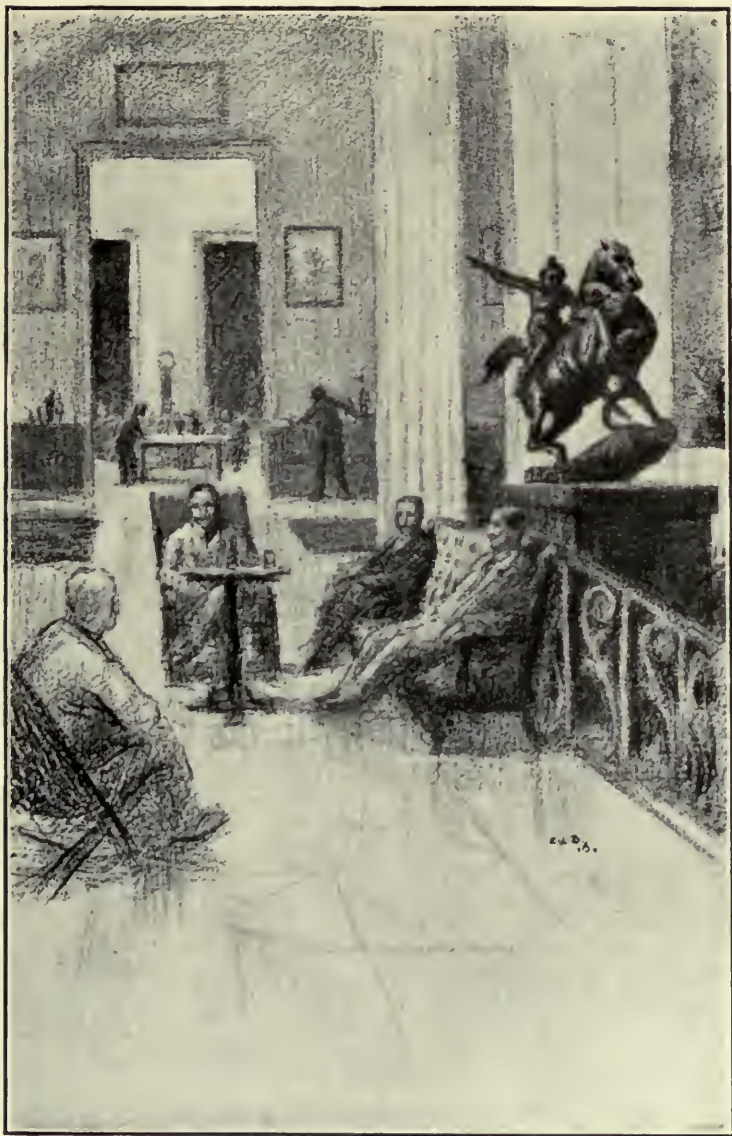
	Rs.	a.	p.
Donations ..	5,770	0	0
Subscriptions ..	11,300	0	0
Rent ..	2,230	0	0
	19,300 0 0		

and a better bridge (over the drain) was required at the main entrance.

In 1863 it was proposed to raise a loan on the Club property (then valued at Rs. 6,14,072) for the purpose of erecting a new range of buildings as further house accommodation. The estimates for the new rooms were Rs. 91,300 and "for building a new Library-room over the entrance porch Rs. 10,000." The library scheme was abandoned on the ground that it was "not required just at present" and, after some discussion and delay, four new bedrooms and six new chambers were built in 1864, and in 1867 the "dungeons," which had been used as servants' quarters were adapted for the use of members, thus bringing the sleeping accommodation up to its present capacity.

The history of the kiosk is rather more romantic than appears from an entry in the half yearly report, June 30, 1869, which says:—"The materials for an iron roof, especially designed by Mr. Ordish, Architect, to cover the terrace at the southern end of the dining room, have arrived from England at a cost of Rs. 10,769 and will be erected after the close of the present monsoon." As a fact the kiosk was ordered out by a Parsi during the Share Mania, and the Club bought it when he came to grief, before he could take delivery of it and erect it for himself.

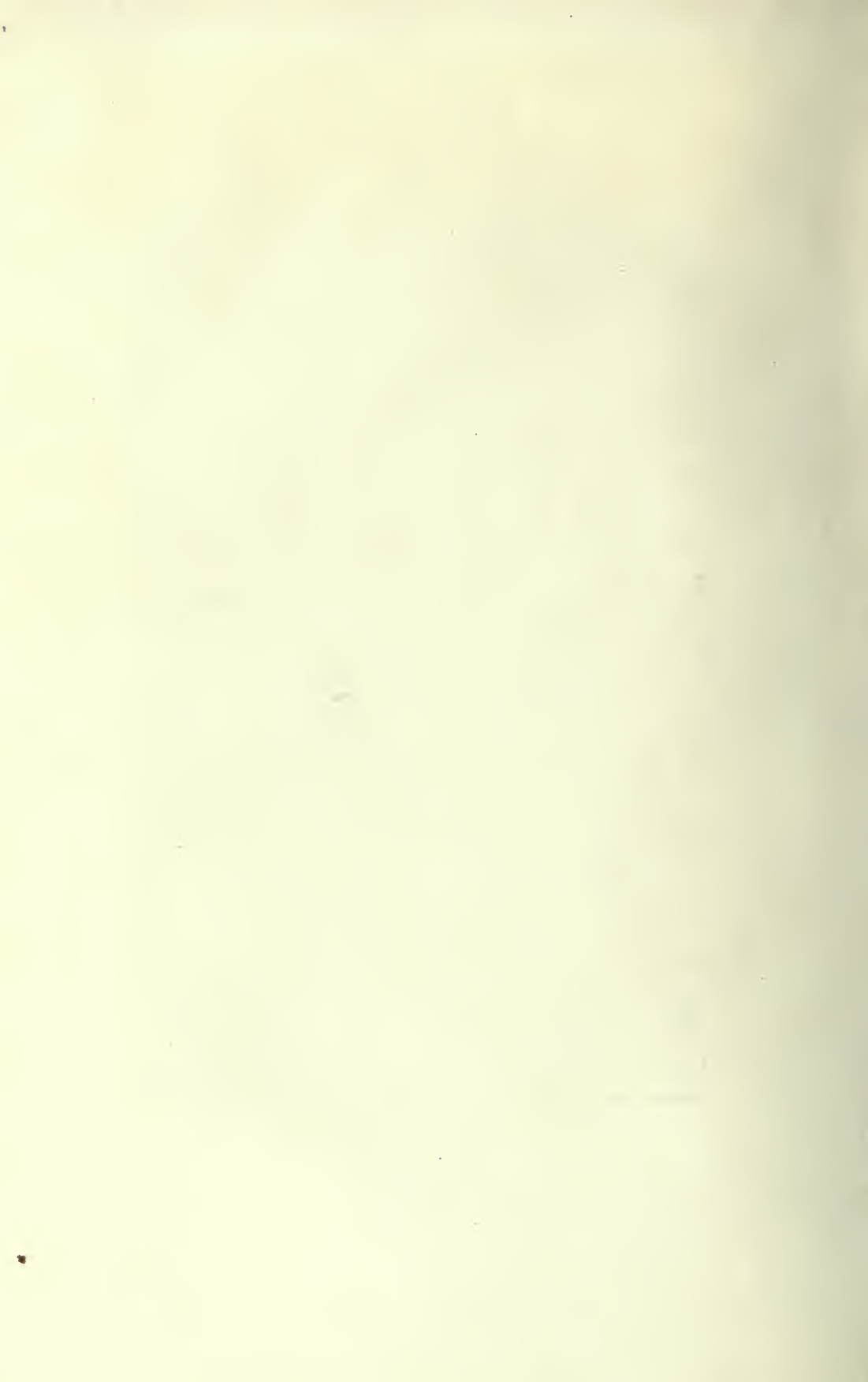
The only other addition to the buildings that need be recorded is that of the dressing room and lavatories, built in 1906, when also extensive alterations were made in the kitchen, and the billiard room was once again extended.



By Cecil L. Burns.

THE HALL.

Face p. 44.



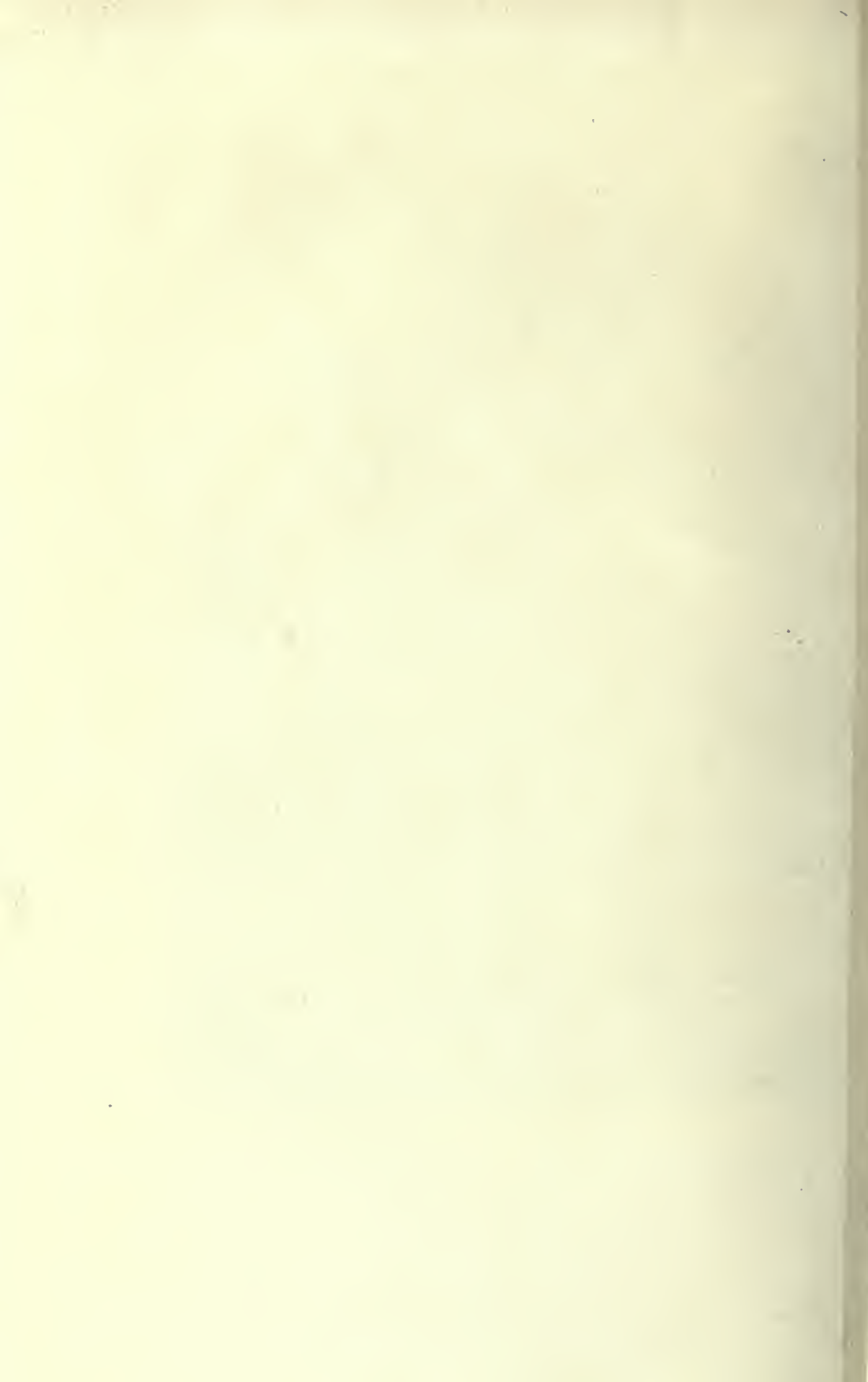
There is little in the furniture of the Club that can be pointed out as curious or beautiful. In the hall are two bronze vases and two carved pedestals for flower tubs which are all of fine Chinese workmanship ; but the writer of this history has been unable to trace their history. In the hall also stands a fine replica on a much reduced scale of the famous " Amazon and Panther " group, by August Kiss, which flanks the right side of the steps to the Old Museum on the north side of the Lustgarten, in Berlin. There is an oral tradition that some of the larger tables in the dining room, some of them being exceedingly fine pieces of wood, were a gift to the Club from Rajah Brooke of Sarawak. Whether well founded or not, the tradition seems worth preserving.

Of the two oil-paintings in the Club, the portrait of William Newnham is reproduced in this book. The other is a portrait of a well known honorary secretary of the Club, Surgeon Major E. T. Downes. In neither case is the name of the painter known.

Scantly endowed with objects of interest as are the Club rooms, they contain a priceless possession in the albums filled with photographs of past and present members. Modesty seems to have led to the discontinuance of a custom for which much could be said, and during the past few years no additions have been made to this interesting collection. The portraits reproduced in this book indicate the extent of range and interest possessed by those albums.

From the early history of the Club that has been given it will be seen that the situation was never regarded as ideal, and occasional references in

the old Minute Books and the Press to the uncovered condition of the main drain in the vicinity of the Club lead one to imagine that the early members must have endured torments compared with which the modern whiffs from Love Grove or the stables are insignificant. But it is doubtful whether in the early days the real disadvantages of the site were ever fully appreciated : judging by analogy they certainly were not foreseen, as may be deduced from the case of the Byculla schools. The Central Schools of the Bombay Education Society were moved from the Fort to Byculla in 1825, and when the Schools Committee reported on the Byculla site in 1824, they commended it as central, airy and healthy and added : " Nor is it ever likely to be incommoded by houses being built in its immediate neighbourhood." There is nothing to show that the founders ever anticipated that the Club would in time be compassed about by chawls, stables, blocks of flats, factories and villas. The gradual extension of the compound was no doubt due to a desire to ensure privacy which was awakened by the activities of builders in the neighbourhood ; but almost up to the 'eighties the drain was the enemy most feared. Thus Sir Seymour Fitz Gerald at the farewell banquet in his honour, in 1872, concluded his speech by saying : " May the future of Bombay be all that I should desire ! May its merchants be as prosperous as I should wish ! May the Byculla Club retain the enviable distinction which not only in this country but in other countries it enjoys ! May the main drain shortly be covered over ! May Byculla mosquitoes be reduced to some reasonable proportions ! " The strangling growth of



the city as yet excited no apprehension, or found no expression in post-prandial pleasantries.

The first scheme for moving the Club, of which any record survives, is that quoted by Douglas, from *The Bombay Courier*, in "Glimpses of Old Bombay," and contained in the following advertisements.

"January 14, 1837.—Meeting of members of the Byculla Club. Entrance donation reduced to Rs. 100 : the same received from new members in five monthly instalments of Rs. 20 each."

"January 14, 1837.—Wanted to rent, by the Byculla Club, a large airy house within the Fort. Tenders to be made to the Secretary at the Club House till the 25th instant."

The *Courier* on January 20, 1837 remarks:—"It is in contemplation to remove the Byculla Club to the Fort. . . . A comprehensive scheme for increasing the number of members may then be appropriately termed the Bombay Club." On 30th January, 1837, an adjourned meeting of the Byculla Club was held to take into consideration the feasibility of removing the Club into the Fort, in Rampart Row or the vicinity, but nothing came of the proposal and for twenty years or so the Club seems to have lived undisturbed by thoughts of migration. In July 1858, the Committee suggested that the time appeared favourable for applying for a site for a new Club House between the Cooperage and Colaba on the westward of the Causeway. If the sub-committee appointed to go into this question made a report it does not seem to have been thought worth while to consider it at a general meeting. Similar schemes must often have

occurred to members but for one reason or another were dropped. Perhaps the prospect of the Club House being converted, after the migration, into a native club or a lunatic asylum acted as a deterrent : that alternative possibility was at least rumoured, and the rumour was quoted by Mr. Justice Bayley when he was President in 1879. In the following year a definite scheme was brought forward by Mr. G. A. Kittredge, who proposed that the Club should be removed gradually into the Fort but it was thought that the proposal was premature.* The B. B. & C. I. Railway had of course at that date been running for fifteen years or so, but the possibility of it being made to serve the convenience of members of the Club does not appear to have been considered until 1880. As an alternative to a move of the Club to the Fort, Mr. Kittredge apparently considered how the interval could be bridged and so suggested that the Agent of the Railway should be asked if he would put up a small station opposite the Club and, if so, that the Hon. Secretary should take steps to get a right of way over the land " between the narrow road and the railway."

A far more original project than Mr. Kittredge's was that urged with characteristic boldness by the late Mr. Arthur Crawford. There is a record of it in " The Development of New Bombay," a little pamphlet by Mr. Arthur Crawford published in 1908. " In the 'seventies," he says, " I proposed that the Club should obtain a concession from Government to

* Members were at this time perturbed at the prospect of the erection of an Iron foundry on vacant land to the south-west of the Club.

enable them to tunnel* through Malabar Hill, and (with the debris) to reclaim the foreshore from Sir Dinshaw Petit's mansion to Juggonath Wasoodeo's house—the reclamation to be in two tiers, and the Club, selling the present Club House—to build their new home on the best position of the reclamation.”

A more determined effort than had hitherto been made to move the Club was made in 1885†, when at the half-yearly meeting Lieut.-General C. J. Merri-man proposed, and Mr. J. W. Orr seconded, that “in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable to move the Byculla Club from its present site.” The proposer stated that the Hon. Secretary had received 30 letters on the subject from non-resident members, of whom 29 were in favour of the move and one against. The proposal was carried *nem. con.* Major-General H. F. Hancock then proposed, and Sir F. Souter seconded, that “in the opinion of this meeting the Chowpatty site is the best available.” This was carried, but an amendment suggesting an inquiry as to other sites was lost. A resolution was then carried that the Managing Committee be requested to report in detail on the necessary steps to be taken to carry out the above resolutions. In July 1886, a special general meeting was held, attended by 56 members, when Sir Charles Sargent proposed and the Hon. Mr. F. Forbes Adam seconded, “that, it being the

* A similar proposal for a tunnel road is to be found in the Municipal records in the report of a committee appointed in 1887 to consider the future extension of the city. It was suggested that the tunnel should start from a point a little north of Siri road and should join Nepean Sea Road near Sir Cowasji Jehangir's house. It was estimated that an area of 1,451,486 square yards could be reclaimed on the foreshore of Breach Candy and Malabar Hill for Rs. 45 lakhs.

† For the half-year the accounts showed a loss of Rs. 4,786.

opinion of this meeting that the Chaupati site is still the best available, that site be and is hereby determined on, in case a sale of the present property be effected." This does not seem to have been put to the vote. Following it, Mr. J. D. Inverarity proposed, and Mr. Kittredge seconded, a resolution against taking action without obtaining further information, which was lost by 22 to 17 votes. Mr. Craigie then proposed and Dr. R. Manser seconded "that it is not desirable to move the Club to the Chaupati site." This amendment was carried by 24 to 17, and in the following month—at the half-yearly meeting—Mr. Craigie moved "that the Club shall not be removed from its present site unless a resolution has been passed authorising such removal by a majority of not less than three-fourths of such members of the Club resident in India as may be present in person or by proxy at any General Meeting of the Club, of which notice specifying the intention to propose such resolution has been duly given." This resolution was carried *nem. con.*

The continued loss on the working of the Club, sparse attendance of members, the counter-attraction of the Yacht Club Chambers (opened in 1898), and the erection of buildings in the neighbourhood of the Club led to an increasing desire to move the Club. A variety of sites was suggested, and in 1900 Mr. G. A. Kittredge again came forward with a project for moving to "the Queen's Road crossing." Among other sites proposed in later years one was near Malabar Hill church, another known as the Admiral's site, and another in Marine Lines. But Government were not helpful, and in reply to an in-

quiry said that Malabar Hill sites were not available and that they were not prepared to alienate any land though they would let it on a lease of 99 years.

“ We are of opinion that the question of moving the Club may be considered as dead.” This startling belief appears in the report of a Special Committee* appointed in 1905 to make suggestions for improving generally the conditions of the Club or of making it more attractive, and it is of interest on account of the facts adduced in support of it as well as because it shows how old and experienced members, well acquainted with the conditions of life in Bombay, may go far astray in their predictions of the future. The chief recommendation of the Committee was that electric lights and fans should be introduced and that a set of four new suites of chambers should be built, which, with other alterations and repairs—such as building the new dressing room and filling the compound—would cost nearly two lakhs of rupees. As history, however, the report is chiefly valuable for the summary it contains of improvements in the surroundings of the Club. “ Property,” it says, “ has been developed and improved on all sides of us. Instead of marshy flats we are surrounded by decent bungalows. With the exception of one small plot of ground to the north-west of the compound (which plot is being taken in hand by the Improvement Trust) † the Club compound is now the only piece of unfilled land in the neighbourhood. Municipal sweepings are no longer dumped upon the Flats :

* The report is signed by Leslie Crawford, H. Kemball, Joseph Hall, W. L. Souter, D. N. Graham, F. J. Preston and G. W. Hatch.

† This was filled in 1910

we are promised a handsome park there in the near future. With the factories that surround us rendered innocuous by electric power, the sole remaining nuisance will be the Municipal drain. It is a reasonable presumption, we believe, that the Municipality will be forced to cover over this drain or prevent it being fouled by sewage. We see no reason why the Byculla of the future should not be as sweet smelling and healthy as it is cool. The approach to the Club is still bad : but here again the Improvement Trust are helping us by opening out their new road from Queen's Road into Girgaum, giving us direct access *via* Choonam Kiln lane into Gilder Street.* The unpleasant corner by Falkland road will thus be avoided Electric trams on the one hand and motor-cars on the other will annihilate the distance that separates the Byculla Club from the Fort. Another point—whereas 20 years ago Byculla was on the outskirts of Bombay, it will in a few years be nearly at the centre. The possession of a park of 27 acres in the centre of Bombay is an unique advantage for a residential Club such as the Byculla.’

It must be confessed that the report just quoted was unusually optimistic and may mislead the generations to come. The marshy flats had, it is true, for the most part disappeared, but not entirely. There was, for instance, considerable reluctance for some years to take up plots on the Improvement Trust's Agripada estate, and this was attributed to the fact that the low-lying land to the west of the

* An 80 ft. road (Lamington Road) in place of the old 24-ft. lane was opened in 1911.

estate bordering on Gilder Street became a swamp during the monsoon, and the making of cow-dung cakes for fuel on the vacant area bordering on this swampy ground was very objectionable. It was not until 1906 that a scheme was submitted to the Improvement Trust for filling in the whole of the area and for the extension of Club road. Even then there remained various tanks in the neighbourhood which have only been filled up in recent years, and it was not until 1914 that the filling in of the marshes to the north-east of the Club was completed. The surrounding factories have not yet been rendered innocuous by electric power: the handsome park on the flats has not yet appeared: evil smells are still to be detected at certain times of the year, though it is hoped materially to reduce them by improvements in the Love Grove outfall. However that may be, the 1905 Committee's rosy view of affairs was accepted and they had the gratification of finding their recommendations accepted *en bloc* by an overwhelming majority at a meeting attended by over 80 members. The proposals were—

1. That the valuation of the Club property, including buildings, be raised to Rs. 5 per square yard, making a total of Rs. 6,66,000.

2. That a new loan of Rs. 1,92,000 be raised by debentures secured by the Club property and bearing interest at 5 per cent.

3. That a sinking fund for repayment of the existing and the proposed new loans within a period of 60 years be instituted on a $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. basis.

4. That steps be taken, as early as possible, to carry out the works we have recommended, *viz.* :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
New Dressing Room ..	18,000	0	0
Electric Light and fans in Chambers, Bed Rooms, and parts of the Club ..	28,000	0	0
Overhead water supply for Chambers and Bed Rooms	6,000	0	0
Sundry Repairs	5,000	0	0
Filling up and levelling compound	50,000	0	0
A set of four new suites of Chambers	50,000	0	0
New Stables	29,000	0	0
Servants' quarters	6,000	0	0
	<hr/>		
Total Rs. ..	1,92,000	0	0

5. Additional rents and an increase in the monthly subscription rates.

The question of moving the Club, having been considered as dead in 1905, was effectively raised from the tomb in 1907 when Mr. Acworth moved a proposition—carried by 27 votes to 23—“That a special Committee be appointed to enquire and report with all convenient despatch :

(i) Whether there is any appropriate site in Bombay available for the location of the Club ?

(ii) Whether there is a reasonable prospect of disposing of the present Club premises at an adequate figure ? ”

The Special Committee was appointed and duly made a report which was said to dispose of the question of a new site for the Club, yet in 1912 still another special committee was appointed to advise on this

evergreen topic. In its report the 1912 Special Committee valued the Club land at Rs. 10 per square yard, at which figure it would have a value of Rs. 13½ lakhs. It considered "that the ultimate aim of the Club should be to acquire a site facing the sea on the proposed new reclamation at Colaba (if that reclamation is eventually definitely decided on) and there to repeat the excellent internal architectural features of the present Club house with some improvement in the accommodation in the Chambers." But, as that was not immediately feasible, the Special Committee reported on temporary sites, such as II Palazzo on Ridge Road, and the Admiral's House (as there was a probability of H. E. the Admiral giving up his official residence in Bombay). Suggestions were also made in regard to the sale of part of the land, or of the whole of it. "And in this matter your Special Committee believe that there are a few members who would be in favour of winding up the Club and distributing its surplus assets among surviving members. Your Special Committee are, however, strongly opposed to this course: they consider that the history and prestige of the Europeans in Bombay centre round the Byculla Club and are bound up not with the locality in which the Club premises stand or may stand but with the personnel of its membership; they consider that the continuity of the Club as a Club should be preserved, and that the Club should set before itself a clear ultimate objective and decide on the best present means for its future attainment."

As Sir Richard Temple said in 1879, clubs "depend not on bricks and mortar, not on structures, not

even on favourable sites, but upon a living edifice which is composed of human minds and hearts.”

Sir Richard might have added that clubs are equally dependent on efficient and economical management—not always to be obtained—but the axiom is often forgotten. The improvements made in 1905, of which particulars have been given, served further to increase the indebtedness of the Club to its debenture holders, and of course added to the cost of working, both in maintenance (on account of lighting, etc.) and interest charges. By the end of 1912 the Club's debts had risen to 3½ lakhs. The greater part of this was money due to debenture holders, but the Club had steadily lost money on its yearly working and its overdraft with the Bank was steadily rising both on account of borrowings required to pay off debentures as they fell due, and also for borrowings to meet the losses on working. The high rate of interest it had to pay on this overdraft was a severe drain on the Club. So, at the end of 1912 a Sub-committee* of Ways and Means was appointed to see what suggestions it could make to improve the Club's prospects. The most important recommendations made by this Committee were—

(1) To negotiate a fixed loan at 5 per cent or less for a period of not less than 10 years, in order to wipe out the outstanding debenture loans and the Club's debt to the Bank.

(2) To endeavour to lease or sell portions of the Club's grounds to suitable tenants.

* COMMITTEE—W. L. Graham, R. Aitken, R. W. Harter, P. R. Cadell, R. Todd, The Hon. A. Hill Trevor, W. P. Pechey.

(3) To introduce a less expensive system of electric power.

During 1914-15 all these proposals were carried into effect. A loan of Rs. 3,60,000 (with power to increase to 5 lakhs) was arranged for a period of 10 years at 5 per cent. A strip of land was sold to the Municipality for widening Lamington Road, and several plots of land on Club road were let for stabling, etc. The electric light (transformer) system was changed at a cost of Rs. 5,000 and the change resulted in a saving in working of Rs. 1,500 during the half year following the conversion. These and certain radical changes, for which Mr. Pechey as Honorary Secretary was responsible, which were introduced in the working of the kitchens and coffee room in 1914, resulted in the Club showing a working profit during 1914 of Rs. 6,438. And in the following year, despite the depressing effect of the war on the revenues of the Club, the year's working showed a small profit, the Byculla being the only Club in Bombay that made a profit in that year.

CHAPTER IV.

DINNERS AND DANCES.

THE oldest tradition that the Club has inherited is that of entertaining distinguished men at dinner, and a mere list of those festivities would be long and imposing. The earliest of them is believed to have been a magnificent entertainment in honour of the Chevalier Ventura, General of the army of Ranjit Singh, at which the Admiral of the Fleet and the Commander of the Forces were present. Members of the Royal Family have at least twice been the honoured guests of the Club at dinner, the Duke of Connaught in February 1887, and Prince Albert Victor in March 1890. On the former occasion upwards of a hundred members sat down to dinner but by the Duke's request the dinner was a private one, and there were no guests except the Duke himself and the members of his Staff. But the most famous Club dinners in recent years have been those at which Viceroy's have been entertained on the eve of laying down the reins of office. Occasionally a Viceroy has been invited to dinner during the tenure of his office, as in the case of Lord Ripon,* who

* *The Times of India*, November 29, 1880. "On Saturday evening H. E. the Viceroy (Lord Ripon) was entertained at dinner by the members of the Byculla Club. The Bombay Volunteer Rifles furnished the guard of honour and again turned out in very large numbers, nearly 200 men, including the band being on parade. On ordinary occasions, the guard of honour should consist of only 100 rank and file, but as the men had taken the trouble to



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THE DINING ROOM.

By Cecil L. Burns.



accepted shortly after he came to India an invitation which on his departure was probably not extended to him. But the farewell feast has been more characteristic of the Club. Thus on December 13, 1888, Lord Dufferin* dined with the members of the Club. Mr. Justice Bayley presided, and among those present were H. E. the Governor (Lord Reay), the Duke of Connaught, Sir Charles Sargent, and Sir Raymond West. Lady Dufferin, in her book "Our Viceregal Life in India", states that Lord Dufferin was "most enthusiastically received, and it was a pleasant ending to his Indian life. He made an after dinner speech and not a political speech." The speech—which was subsequently published in a Latin translation by Rickards—is contained in the collected edition of Lord Dufferin's speeches published in 1890, and is chiefly remarkable for the fact that Lord Dufferin told the members that they could sleep safely in their beds, thus anticipating a famous speech of much later date by another statesman in England. "Nor, gentlemen," he said at the end of his speech, "have I been unmindful of your own immediate interests. The fortifications of your city have been set on foot—thanks to the energy of Lord Reay, who never ceases to trouble the tranquillity of our Simla Olympus whenever your interests are at stake (Applause)—with as much expedition as the extraordinary faculty which able engineers

attend, the military custom was broken through and the distinguished guest of the Byculla Club was saluted by nearly double the number of men usually serving on such occasions."

* The engraving of Lord Dufferin in the Club writing room is a present from its subject.

possess of differing from one another will allow (Laughter). The works have already made considerable progress, and when the whole scheme has been developed and properly supplemented by torpedo fields, by suitably armed warships, and by a body of marine fencibles, you will be able to sleep in your beds in greater peace than the inhabitants of half a hundred towns in the mother country (Loud applause). Nor have I failed to recognise the importance of adequate railway communication between the Western Gate of India and its sister capital of Bengal, to the mutual advantage of both cities and of either province (Applause). Under these circumstances, gentlemen, I trust I am not called upon, like Caesar, to put aside the parting wreath of approval which you have so generously offered to me (Loud cheers). Gentlemen, all Governors and Viceroys arrive on your shores with their heads jubilant and erect upon their shoulders: but alas! it is always a question whether they may not return in the guise of St. Denis, decapitated by public opinion either here or at home. Well, gentlemen, you have been pleased to declare that my head remains as safely set in its place as when I first saw you."

But the most famous of all these dinners was that given to Lord Curzon on November 16, 1905, two days before he finally left India. To Mr. Leslie Crawford, as President of the Club, was assigned the task of proposing the toast of the evening at a dinner for which it would be difficult to find a parallel in the history of any Club in India. Among the guests present in addition to the Governor of Bombay,

Lord Lamington, was Lord Ampthill, then Governor of Madras, who in the previous year had been Viceroy *pro tem* during the absence of Lord Curzon. The speech delivered by Lord Curzon on that occasion is probably the finest ever delivered by one who ranks high among the foremost orators of to-day, and it evoked unbounded enthusiasm from his hearers. As a reasoned and eloquent justification of his policy it naturally finds a place in Lord Curzon's published "Speeches:" but there should be recalled here the opening sentences, in which he gracefully referred to the Club and Bombay. "Three times," said Lord Curzon, "has the Byculla Club honoured me with an invitation to dinner. The first occasion was when I was leaving India at the end of my first term of office in April 1904. The second was when I returned to India for my second term in December 1904; and this is the third, when I am finally departing. I have esteemed this triple compliment most highly. For ordinarily Bombay does not see or know much of the Viceroy except what it reads in the newspapers—which is not perhaps uniformly favourable; and, with a Governor of your own, you cannot be expected to take as much interest in the head of the Supreme Government as other communities or places with which he is brought into more frequent contact. In respect of Bombay, however, I have been unusually fortunate in my time; for apart from the four occasions of arrival or departure, I have been here once in Lord Sandhurst's and once in Lord Northcote's time, and again a week ago, so that this is my seventh visit in seven years. Here I made my first speech on Indian shores, and here

it is not unfitting that I should make my last. Calcutta did me the honour of inviting me to a parting banquet, and so did the Civil Service of Bengal and I was greatly touched by those compliments. But I felt that, having accepted your invitation, I owed a duty to you, and that I should only become a nuisance if I allowed myself either the luxury or the regret of too many farewells."

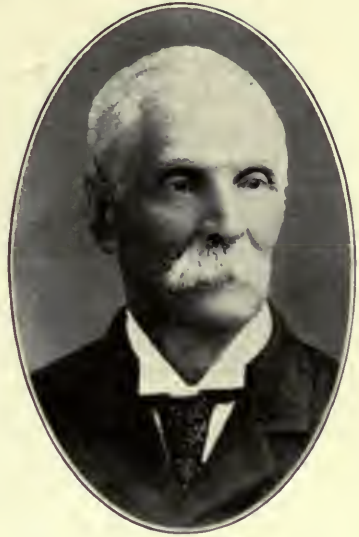
Dinners to Governors of Bombay on their departure have naturally been more numerous, though not sufficiently numerous to become regarded as inevitable: there have been marked exceptions. One of these, for long remembered because of the distinction of the guest and for the speech he made, was that to Sir Bartle Frere in February, 1867, when Mr. A. R. Scoble, the President of the Club, presided. Sir Bartle's speech on that occasion is well worth reproducing almost in full. He said:—

"Mr. Scoble and Gentlemen—I have often, during the last few weeks, found some difficulty to express in adequate terms my sense of the feelings of regret which has been manifested by my friends on some, more than one, occasion as the time for my departure from this country rapidly draws near; but I can fairly say I feel no such difficulty upon this occasion, for I am sure that the way in which Mr. Scoble has proposed the toast of my health and the manner in which you, gentlemen, have received it, would draw a voice from a heart of stone. I need hardly tell you, gentlemen, that the feeling that this is probably the last time when I can have the pleasure of dining at this club, conjures up a host of recollections, some grave and solemn, but many more

Four Distinguished Members.



SIR BARTLE FRERE.



SIR CHARLES SARGENT.



MR. A. CRAIGIE,
Joined 1866, Died 1915.



GEN. SIR DOUGLAS HAIG,
as Captain, 7th Hussars.

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pleasurable, of days that are past. They carry me back very nearly to the times which have been described so graphically by Mr. Scoble, for it was within a few days after my arrival in Bombay* that I first entered this club. It was then a very small building, almost the whole of it, I believe, comprised within the limits of what is now the reading room. We had then neither sleeping-rooms nor anything beyond a very small billiard room in which to amuse ourselves: from that day to this, I have upon many occasions, and long before I came here as Governor, passed many very happy days in this club, and now when I am about to leave this country finally, it is a great pleasure to find myself once more as it were among my old companions, and to receive this proof of your sympathy and your regard.....

Gentlemen, it has often struck me that in England we are in the habit of doing very scant justice to institutions like the one within whose walls we are assembled. We have got into a habit of talking of them as excrescences on our social organisation, but I have frequently thought they take a very important part in preparing Englishmen for that political life which is more or less the lot of every one of us. We are trained in our clubs to habitual respect for the verdict of the majority. When a question has once been fairly discussed and voted on and decided, there is, for the time at least, an end of it in every well ordered club, and this alone is a habit of no small value in political life. Then again, in every club there is habited respect for the authority of the

* He arrived in September, 1834, having come by the overland route-sailing from Mocha to Bombay on an Arab dhow carrying pilgrims.

ruling body chosen by the members themselves as the most fit to govern them. But above all, we are trained in our clubs to have a habitual and liberal regard for the wishes and feelings of the minority, and I cannot help feeling that it is a great deal owing to the feeling thus inculcated and to the habits of mind fostered by this feature of our club management in England that we owe some of that feeling to which the Chairman alluded when he spoke of the way in which we habitually treat the natives of this country. In most contests, social, political, polemical and even literary, there is a great disposition on the part of the majority of those who have the victory to treat as conquered those over whom they triumph, but you, gentlemen, know the practice in a well ordered club is very different : for having once settled a question by the vote of the majority, the object of the good club member is to make the victory as little onerous as possible to the defeated party and to obliterate all trace of discord as speedily and completely as possible. Now, I do not think that habits of this kind are unimportant among those who give the tone to men who come out to this country to rule over it, to share in various ways in its administration, and I would attribute to the habitual moderation in victory which distinguishes the English gentleman in social life, no small part of that moderation to which the Chairman has alluded as having so nobly characterised the policy of Lord Canning. But, whatever, gentlemen, may be the advantages of clubs in England, I think there are very few who will not admit far greater claims for them in Bombay. In England we know the young

professional man has often a choice between the comforts of a home and the comforts of club life. Here, too many of your young countrymen have no such choice, and this institution has for years past afforded to many of them some of the comforts and the advantages of a home. It has established a standard of social judgment upon many not unimportant social questions, and hence I cannot but regard the success of such an institution as having a value of its own in the eyes of all those who value the character of the British community in this land. And it is a matter of real gratification to find kindred institutions† springing up not only in Bombay but in Poona.”

Ten years later Sir Philip Wodehouse was entertained at a farewell dinner, when, according to *The Times of India*, there was a large and distinguished company consisting of the principal officials in the Presidency. The Hon. Mr. Gibbs occupied the chair. On his right were Sir Philip Wodehouse, Sir Charles Staveley, the Hon. Mr. Rogers and on his left Sir Richard Temple, Sir Reginald Macdonald, Sir Michael Westropp and Sir Charles Sargent. Over 150 gentlemen sat down to dinner.

The following was the menu :—

Potages.

Green turtle Bisque.

Poisson.

Mayonnaise à la gelée Sauce Homard

Filets de sole au gratin aux truffes.

† The present Bombay Club had been founded a few years previously, on the dissolution of the Indian Navy and the consequent wind-up of the Indian Navy Club in 1862. The Club of Western India dates from 1865.

Entrees.

Filet de Boeuf à la Financière
 Cotelettes braisées sauce Perigord
 Timbale de Volaille au macaroni.

Rôts.

Mouton Anglais chateaubriand
 Dinde truffée sauce Hollandaise
 Jambon au vin de Madère.

Entremets.

Asperges et Petite Pois à la Francaise
 Haricots verts au gratin
 Tête de sanglier à la gelée. . Pâté de Foie gras
 glacé.

Entremets sucrés.

Soufflé aux fruits. . Pouding glacé aux fruits.

Dessert.

Crème de Vanille et chocolat glacé
 Bombe glacée, groseille et framboise.

The length of the menu, like the magnitude of the stars set as Governors in authority over us, may vary from time to time, but that just quoted appears to be fairly typical of bygone feasts. So too there appears to be a family resemblance in the speeches made on these occasions. Sir Richard Temple, who was Governor from 1877 to 1880, has left his own summary of his farewell words. "The Byculla Club," he writes,* "was a famous institution which had for generations contained the best elements of the European society in Bombay. This evening it

* "The Story of My Life." By the Right Hon. Sir Richard Temple, Bart. (Cassell) Vol. II., pp. 52-53.

was crowded for the hastily arranged banquet at which Mr. Kemball, the President of the Club, presided. I sat between him and the Chief Justice, Sir Michael Westropp, one of my fastest friends. After the loyal toasts my health was proposed, and I can never forget how the whole assembly sprang to their feet to give the toast. I then made the last of my many speeches to a Bombay audience. Fortunately at that moment the Bombay Presidency happened to be standing at its very zenith. I would not claim credit for that, but I had a right to note the fact. So I reminded the company of the extent of our sphere, which then stretched from Mysore in Southern India right up the Deccan on to the valley of the Indus and thence to the border of the Candahar province. I recounted briefly the principal measures in which we had been engaged together. Towards my conclusion, I touched on the cordial relations and good fellowship which had subsisted between us, declaring that even public obedience and respect had paled before the general heartiness with which all classes had supported me in the performance of duties which were theirs as well as mine. If I had asked my officers and friends to undergo hardship in imperial interests, I had myself shared it with them. If this proved severe, it had been the same for us all alike. Speaking personally I quoted some Horatian lines, to the effect that a man must be ready for any change of life that may befall him. I said that without waiting for that inexorable fate which cuts the thread of official existence, I would cut it myself. Just before resuming my seat I recited the parting

lines of the song "Kathleen Mavourneen"—with the slightest alteration—"it may be for years, it may be for ever."

Another speech by Sir Richard Temple, delivered in 1879 at a dinner to Mr. Gibbs, is probably one of the best in which the toast of the Club has ever been proposed. It certainly is one of the earliest attempts to bring to light the early history of the Club. "I have been requested by the President," said Sir Richard, "in conclusion of the toasts this evening, to propose "Success to the Byculla Club." In proposing this toast, gentlemen, I shall not attempt to repeat to you the excellent description of the original condition of this Club which has been given in the popular Guide Book by a popular member of the Club.* But, gentlemen, I have conferred with one or two friends of my own in the Club who have had access to the archives and chronicles and I find that this institution, like many other institutions of present celebrity and grandeur, dates from very small beginnings. In 1833, when the Club began, there was only the present reading-room and a verandah and some of its regulations were of what would now be called a primitive character. I find it was specifically enacted that a plain dinner should cost 12 annas, and that if twelve persons dined together the dinner was not to cost more than Rs. 3 a head, but then stress was laid on the condition that the dinner was to include "all the delicacies of the season." Further, it was specifically laid down and prescribed that if members took tea in their own rooms separate from the Club rooms, that to those

* J. M. Maclean, whose "Guide to Bombay" was first published in 1875.

rooms no teapot, sugar basin, or cream jug should be sent, but that the tea should be made outside by the domestics. Well, now, from this comparatively humble origin, which is very difficult for us now to imagine when we regard all the magnificence and sumptuousness of our present surroundings,—I say from these small beginnings, the Club advanced, together with the City of Bombay, growing with its growth, extending with its extension, and advancing with its progress, so that in 1842 there were at least 78 resident-members and 408 non-resident members. Then it was, too, that this spacious hall in which we are now assembled was constructed by Major Suart of the Engineers. The walls of this room, like other walls, doubtless have ears, and think what they must have heard since that time. Think also what they would say if they could speak as well as hear: how they would say that our speeches this evening are very poor as compared to the eloquence of those who went before us. They would say how feeble are our cheers as compared with the lusty vociferations of the men of the older time. But, gentlemen, it was in 1844, and from that time to 1855, or so, the list of members of this Club comprised many men known to fame in this city—such names as William Howard, the barrister, the patron of the Turf and of the Yacht Club, Mr. Ayrton, the well-known director of the G. I. P. Railway who has since become a member of the Queen's Privy Council, and a minister of the Crown: Mr. Dickenson, a leading barrister at the time who afterwards became member of Parliament for Stroud: Major-General Sir William Coghlan, who was afterwards resident at Aden:

besides too many names still familiar to us present—such names as my lamented friend Spencer Compton, William Frere and Barrow Ellis, Henry Lacon Anderson. Then, it was in 1864 that the office of President of the Club was founded—an office which has so worthily been filled by the two gentlemen who are seated on my right. Mr. Gibbs himself, the guest of the evening, was for several years president of this Club: but the first president was the very gentleman who is now your chairman this evening. He was then Advocate-General. He held the post of your president from 1864 to 1867, and again he has been re-elected. After Mr. Bayley there was Mr. Scoble, lately retired from Bombay, and still freshly remembered among us: and Mr. Samuel Mansfield, than whom, I suppose, a more popular member of society never existed in Bombay. So that now the presidentship of the Club has come to be regarded as one of the very highest social distinctions which can be conferred. Such, then, gentlemen, is the Club which I am to include in the toast I am about to propose. Whether it will ever migrate, as the president indicated this evening to a breezier side of the city, towards the Esplanade, I know not, but wherever it is, the living institution will remain. Clubs, gentlemen, depend not on bricks and mortar, not on structures, not even on favourable sites, but upon a living edifice which is composed of human minds and hearts. Let us drink, then, gentlemen, success to this Club. May it ever be, as it is now, the home of manly virtues and English sentiments. May it ever be distinguished by independence of thought, tempered by consideration

for the feelings of others, and by deference to all that is good and just in public opinion. May it ever give, as it now gives, a tone and a dignity to society : may it ever impart, as it now imparts, gracefulness and stability to our social structure. May it ever be among the highest representatives of all that most worthily distinguishes the British character in the East : and may it ever be worthy as it is now worthy, of the public services and of the great non-official community of the Bombay Presidency.”

In 1885 the Club entertained Sir Richard Temple's successor, Sir James Fergusson, when the dinner was reported, as is not uncommon, to have been the most brilliant function that had ever taken place within the Club. Precisely the same description was applied in the Press to the farewell dinner given to Lord Harris in 1895, when Mr. Justice Bayley presided. On that occasion, however, there seem to have been some good grounds for superlative epithets, as 120 hosts and 45 guests were present. Of the hosts a considerable number were still in India in 1911 and they entertained Lord Harris at dinner again when he re-visited India in that year to attend the Durbar. At the farewell dinner to Lord Sandhurst in 1900, Mr. Macpherson, President of the Club, presided and Lord Sandhurst in his speech said that his connection with the Club had begun about twenty years previously when, owing to his youth, he was not allowed to take part in the Saturday Club evenings whose intellectual and innocent amusements—Telli-cherry Pool and the Race Game—were the delightful sequel of those festive gatherings. The names of many other guests invited by the Club to dinner

are writ large in history. Here for example in 1840 dined Captain James Outram, famed already for his pursuit of Amir Dost Muhammad across the Hindu Kush and for the prominent part he had taken in the operations in South Afghanistan, and destined a year or two later to receive from Sir Charles Napier the immortal name of the Bayard of India. In 1844 Sir H. Pottinger—famous as a traveller and administrator—was the guest of the Club. To Napier a dinner was given in his old age, in February 1851. The report in *The Bombay Times* says:—

“The light company of the 8th N. I. under command of Captain Ashburner and Lieut. Beville were drawn up as a guard of honour at the portico. Most of the men wore the Scinde Medal having distinguished themselves at Dubba. Sir Charles at once recognised them and addressed a few words of compliment which he desired the officers to interpret to the men. . . . The large dining-room of the Club is 75 feet by 45 feet—the tables were arranged in the form of the letter U. The room was magnificently lighted up, and the whole arrangements were well nigh perfect. In the large new verandah, into which the dining-room opens, in the direction of the race course, we observed a considerable number of ladies who seemed to have slipped in after dinner to hear the speeches. Sir Charles arrived punctually at the time appointed—half past seven—and was received by Sir W. Yardley, Brigadier Wyllie, Dr. Downes, Secretary to the Club, and the other members of the Committee by whom he was conducted into the large room formerly used

as a dining-room, now used as a reading-room and supper-room for the Club. He seemed at once to recognise almost everyone he had ever met before, and cordially shook by the hand those of his former friends who were able to reach him through the multitude. Sir W. Yardley presided. On his right sat the guest of the evening, Sir Charles Napier and next to him the Chief Justice, Sir E. Perry, Mr. Pringle, late Commissioner in Sind, etc., and on the left of the Chairman Mr. J. Warden, Sudder Adawlut, etc. Brigadier Wyllie acted as Croupier."

Napier's own account of the dinner, quoted in his "Life," is more instructive and shows how much he appreciated this opportunity of making an appearance in the very centre of hostility towards him. "The Bombay people, he wrote, have given me a triumph and a half, over Willoughby,* Buist,† and Outram ‡; not that the last was there, but his influences were. The civilians and soldiers gave me a dinner. When I got up to speak I had no idea of what to say, having never thought about it, except that, not knowing what the chairman would say, I resolved not to think of my own sayings until guided by his speech. My intention was to return a few words of thanks and sit down: instead of which various matters rushed into my mind and I made a long speech which produced more effect than any ever before made by me, and it came

* Sir John Willoughby, at that time member of Council, Bombay: subsequently a director of the E. I. Co. and member of the Council of India.

† George Buist, Editor of the *Bombay Times*, 1839—1857.

‡ Sir James Outram, whose difference of opinion with Napier about the annexation of Sind led to an historic controversy.

more easily to me : the applauses were continued and outrageous. The reporters made a hash of it : they brought it to me next morning to correct ; but though William and my daughter Emily, who heard it, aided, we could make nothing of it but nonsense."

Another famous soldier who honoured the Club by accepting an invitation to a dinner was Major-General Sir Hugh Rose, on his return in 1858 from the command of the Central India Field Force. To Lord Roberts the Club gave no mark of honour until 1893, on the eve of his retirement from the command of the Army in India. At the dinner then given to him, there was present among the guests the late Field-Marshal Sir George White. Two extracts from old newspaper files may well close this list of military dinners. The first dates from 1839. "On Wednesday evening last, the officers of H. M. 15th Hussars were entertained by the members of the Byculla Club, resident at the Presidency. The Hon'ble the Chief Justice was in the chair. The gallant Colonel was unavoidably absent in attendance on His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief at Poona. The rest of the officers, among whom was Lord Jocelyn, who arrived in the course of the day from the Red Sea, were present. The Band of the Regiment was obligingly furnished by the officers, and added to the cheerfulness of the entertainment which was kept up with great conviviality and sociability, until past midnight. The neatness of the speeches, the taste of the songs and the flavour of the champagne left nothing that hilarity and good fellowship could desire."

The second extract records one of the few failures that have attended these dinners and is from *The Times of India* of 1863. "The dinner to the senior officers of the Indian Navy, the officers of the *Severn* and the officers of the *Japon*, was given at the Byculla Club on Thursday evening. Many gentlemen who wished to be present could not go on account of the very short notice given by the managers of the affair : but between sixty and seventy gentlemen sat down to a dinner, which for excellence of cuisine and wines is declared to have been the best ever given in Bombay. The after proceedings were, by all accounts, not equally happy. The health of all the guests was proposed in one compendious toast, to which no one replied, each hesitating to take precedence of the others. We are afraid it was a mistake to ask all the officers together. Had the dinner been given to the Indian Navy, and the *Severn* officers been asked to meet them, a good deal of awkwardness and misunderstanding would have been avoided."

Apart from the dinners already mentioned, there are a few others, not so easily classified, worthy of record. Thus a dinner to Sir Michael Westropp, the Chief Justice, in 1882 is deserving to be remembered as in his speech he referred to the changes at the Bar which had taken place in his time. "There has grown up during the last twenty years in the Presidency of Bombay," he said, "a profession strikingly different from that which existed heretofore—more intelligent, more honourable and more able to assist their clients. And as to the pleaders of the High Court they are now as respectable a body of men as one could desire : being in this respect quite opposite

to what they once were. I recollect the day when in the *Sudder Adawlut* the leading man had undergone five years' imprisonment for fraud and now, gentlemen, these pleaders are all highly educated men, and undergo an examination of the most searching character in order that the profession may be maintained at the high level at which it now is, and they are ready to hunt out of it any man whom they believe to be dishonourable and will spend much time and much money in attaining that end."

J. M. Maclean, who lived in the Club for some years when he was Editor of the now defunct *Bombay Gazette*, was given a farewell dinner in 1880 at which about 150 were present. "I highly appreciated this compliment," he wrote in his *Recollections of Westminster and India*, "as the distinction of being invited to a public dinner at the Byculla Club had never, up to that time, been conferred on any non-official Anglo-Indian. Sir Lyttelton Bayley, late Chief Justice* of Bombay, was in the chair, and the Governor, Sir Richard Temple, made a long speech in my honour." Maclean, the author of an admirable but now out-of-date Guide Book to Bombay, was a well known man in Bombay in the 'seventies and has left an amusing picture of Bombay society as he knew it.† His reference to a "public" dinner emphasises the difference between a dinner given by the Club and a dinner given by members of the Club. Rule XXV says:—"A Ball or Public Dinner may be given at any time on the

* He was never Chief Justice, though he acted more than once for Sir Charles Sargent.

† Of the Club he wrote: "Many a pleasant evening we spent in those days at the Byculla Club in symposia which were not unworthy to be classed with the *Noctes Ambrosianæ* of Christopher North."

requisition of 50 members. All arrangements for such Ball or Public Dinner shall be under the control of the Committee." A public dinner is not the only one at which speeches can be made, for a bye-law provides for speech-making at private dinners by special permission of the Committee. Such private dinners have been numerous, and it is possible that more than one honoured guest has left under the comforting belief that he has been entertained by the Club when in reality the dinner has been a private affair given by his friends. In the 'nineties these feasts, whether given by the Club or by individual members, were more common than now. Sir Lyttelton Bayley, C. P. Cooper, and T. Macartney Filgate—one of the most popular of members, whose portrait hangs in the writing room—were all honoured guests at particularly crowded dinners. Gatherings of "old boys" from various public schools have not been uncommon, and about 1894 an old University dinner was held. On the latter occasion Lord Harris presided and speeches were made by Mr. St. John Brodrick, now Lord Middleton, and Sir Charles Sargent who recalled the days when he was a fellow of Trinity, Cambridge, fifty years earlier. In the 'eighties, when the polo tournament in Bombay attracted famous teams from all over India, the annual polo dinner was held at the Club and was not infrequently a rather noisy affair involving damage to the furniture and "repair charges" to the hosts. When Calcutta sent over a sporting team to play Bombay at every feasible game, in the mid 'eighties, a dinner in honour of the team was given in the Club and the billiard match—between tall Colonel (then

Major) Sartoris and Mr. W. A. Bonnaud, the small Calcutta representative—took place after dinner.

In April 1871, the Club entertained to dinner Mr. William Henry Seward (1801-1872) who had twice filled the office of Governor of New York and was a rival of Abraham Lincoln's for the presidency of the United States. He was at this time engaged in a tour lasting $12\frac{1}{2}$ years. The biography of him in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* relates that he believed that the Union could be saved without a war. Finding himself overruled by the war party in the Cabinet, on the 1st of April, 1861, Seward suggested a war of all America against most of Europe, with himself as the director of the enterprise. The conduct of Spain toward Santo Domingo and of France toward Mexico and the alleged attitude of England and Russia toward the sacred states were to be the grounds for precipitating this gigantic conflict: and agents were to be sent into Canada, Mexico and Central America to arouse a spirit of hostility to European intervention. Dangers from abroad would destroy the centrifugal forces at home, and the Union would be saved. But this bellicose spirit was not reflected in his speech at the Byculla Club, and it is interesting to recall that part of his speech in which he said that "it cannot be long before the British Government will be relieved of the necessity of maintaining an Indian Army to save their possessions and an European Army to watch the Indian one." Sir Michael Westropp in proposing his health pointed out that a septuagenarian making a grand tour of Asia was a phenomenon not often met with. Mr. Seward in his reply said he had frequently been

asked during his stay in Bombay what he thought of the City. He answered it by saying that the Byculla Club was "a just exponent of a great and growing Oriental metropolis."

A still more distinguished American visitor to the Club was General Grant who, in February, 1879, had tiffin with Mr. Justice Gibbs and subsequently viewed the racing from the Club balcony.

At a later date there came into existence a little coterie known as the Saturday Club, of which Mr. T. J. Bennett writes the following account:—"I believe my predecessor, (as Editor of *The Times of India*) Curwen, had more to do with the foundation of it than anyone. He was its first Secretary—others were Sir James Campbell, John Macpherson, I think, myself just before I left in 1901, and I think E. C. B. Acworth then took charge. I found no traces of it in my later visits to India. We met fortnightly during the cold weather. There were nine members, and it was customary to invite five guests. This made the company dangerously near to the sinister 13, and if a guest failed us we roped in a man from the round table to quiet the misgivings of the superstitious. It was plain living, for we never went beyond the House dinner and we tried to make it high thinking, for we sometimes secured the presence of distinguished personages who were passing through. All the Governors in my time came to dine with us and I have recollections of a very pleasant evening when our guests were Lord Brassey and most of the members of the Opium Commission. I remember the high compliments that Lord Brassey paid to the Club cooking (and he must be a good

judge of a dinner, as you can see from the letter which he wrote to Lord Inchcape in praise of the P. and O. table). I wish I could give you an adequate list of the members of this genial companionship. But any of the survivors will of course tell you that the best men of their time were either members or guests of the Saturday Club and that no more pleasant gatherings were known than the Saturday Club dinner. If I were to echo J. M. Maclean's memory of "Symposia not unworthy to be classed with the Noctes Ambrosianae of Christopher North" I should be asked by some old members what sort of a symposium must it be which ends with Tellicherry Pool and that reprobate gamble the Race Game!"

The Club Ball is a long-established festivity. There are occasional references to it in the newspapers of the 'forties from which it appears it that was not always held at the best time of year. In 1848, for instance it took place in the first week of December when "the evening was somewhat warm," but "the supper was of the very best and the whole arrangements of the evening perfect—as they ever are when under the direction of the Secretary of the Byculla Club." The last remark was evidently not mere flattery, for another Ball had been held in February of the same year, after which the Committee resolved that the Secretary "be requested to express to Nusserwanjee, the extreme satisfaction of the Committee with the excellence of the arrangements made by him at the late Ball, and with the very superior and elegant supper he supplied on the occasion." Two or more Balls a year is a prospect

from which resident members of to-day may recoil with horror ; but it is not an impossible contingency. Rule XXV says " A Ball or Public Dinner may be given at any time on the requisition of 50 members." That rule dates from January 1847, when it was determined " that a Ball may be given at any time on the requisition of fifty members—the Ball to be under the control of the Managing Committee, as regards, invitations, etc., and the expenses being paid by the subscribing members." Senior members of the Club are shy of recalling tender memories of bygone dances ; but "sitting-out" was much the same in the days of quadrilles and polkas as it is in the day of two-steps and tangoes. The following account of the Ball in February, 1860, illustrates that fact :—

" The Race Ball at the Byculla Club on Monday evening was a great success. Neither trouble nor expense had been spared by the Committee to render it as brilliant as possible and the result proved most satisfactory in every way. The traditional extra million of lamps from Vauxhall appeared to have been engaged for this occasion only in the illumination of the avenue of approach to the Club, while the Ball Room was truly a hall of delight and dazzling splendour. The rank and beauty, or rather the beauty and rank, of Bombay and its vicinity began to arrive about 9 p.m. and inspired by two excellent bands and a famous supper, dancing was kept up with the greatest spirit until 4 a.m. In the intervals between the dances quiet and retired corners of the verandah were much patronised and from the very serious manner in which sundry young ladies were

observed picking their fans to pieces on these occasions and the very anxious uneasy appearance of their attendant swains, there seems to have been a determined effort on the part of the latter to reduce still further the singularly small number of spinsters present, in which laudable endeavour, it is to be hoped, they were not unsuccessful, opportunities of this nature so rarely occurring in Bombay. The number present at the Ball could not have been less than a hundred, comprising so many officers and civilians of high rank that the limits of this article do not admit of their names being individually mentioned amongst whom were observed General Sir Hugh Rose, K.C.B., H. L. Anderson, Esq., Commodore Young, I.N., Captain Cowper, B. H. Ellis, Esq., etc., etc. The hot season is now rapidly approaching—is this to be the last as well as the first public Ball of the year ? ”

Other accounts of the annual Ball are frequent in the files of *The Bombay Times*, and the following may be taken as typical :—

1846. “The Ball given by the members of the Byculla Club took place on the evening of Monday last, and was a very splendid affair indeed ; not more so, certainly, than was expected. The rooms of the Club House have of late been completely restored ; the appearance of the entrance and lobby, elegant on all occasions, was on the present one quite superb. Fortunately, the night was peculiarly fine—one of the first perfectly fair ones we have had for three years in the month of July. Dancing was continued to a late, or rather to a not very early hour, and all parted expressing their delight

with the enjoyments of the evening. It was remarked that a much greater number than could have been dreamt of of those expected to have graced the meeting with their presence were absentees—absence not explained but deeply regretted.” (There can have been no sitting out in the garden on that occasion as the Ball was held in the first week of July!),

1850. “The members of the Byculla Club have we observe, resolved on giving a Ball at their splendid rooms at Byculla on Wednesday next (October 16). We really do not well know what would become of the community without the Club, which takes the lead in all our gaieties, and whose own arrangements are always conducted on such a scale of magnificence, and with such admirable elegance and order, that nothing can well be brought to rival them....The Ball at the Byculla Club came off on the night of the 16th with the *eclat* usually—or rather we should say uniformly—attendant on the gaieties of the Club, whatever be their nature. Considering the number of fashionables just now absent from the presidency, and the unusually unpropitious state of the weather for dancing, the party might be considerably numerous, as it was most brilliantly attended. By ten o'clock dancing was in full progress. About eleven supper was announced, when the magnificent arrangements of the table received the homage they justly claimed. Dancing was soon afterwards resumed, and though the heat compelled a somewhat earlier break up than might under a milder temperature have occurred, the Club lights had hardly burnt out when “jocund morn stood tiptoe on the misty mountain tops.” As

usual, the taste, elegance, urbanity and attention of the Secretary were subjects of universal commendation."

1851. "The Race Ball at the Byculla Club on Monday evening went off with the *eclat* usually attendant on the festivities under the eye of the Secretary; it was very numerously attended, and dancing was kept up from ten till long past two o'clock. Supper, which was served at half-past twelve, was unusually sumptuous, and though the want of ice was felt in the confectionery department the potables were so abundantly cooled that it was in their case scarcely missed. The odours received from the directions of the ditch were less intolerable than they frequently are: such as they were, their absence would have been preferred to their presence."

The two most notable Balls, however, that the Club has ever given were in 1875 and 1905, the Heir to the Throne being present on each occasion. Of the former, brief mention is made by the late Sir William Howard Russell in "The Prince of Wales's Tour in India." "When dinner was over," he writes, "there was a movement for the grand Ball given by the Byculla Club, of which all European Bombay had been talking, thinking, and dreaming for weeks, but it was not given to everyone to have strength for these festivities, which, after all, were like those exotics which are chiefly valuable because they flourish under adverse circumstances. There were always absentees, or some who treated such occasions as men do the cold water plunge of the Russian bath—popped in and hopped out again. Perhaps the Duke of Sutherland and Sir Bartle

Frere were among the latter, and certainly Canon Duckworth was of the former, but the Prince was never known to disappoint expectations, or to throw a chill over such gatherings by retiring early—*Royauté oblige* with him; and the Byculla Ball was, by all accounts, worthy of his presence, and was a great credit to those who had the management, and who were seen to grow old prematurely under the weight of care, till all wrinkles were smoothed by its brilliant success. The jackals and minars, which had been welcoming dawn round my tent, were banished by the cheerful voices of my neighbours as they returned, one of whom was good enough to come in and give me his first and freshest impressions of the Ball, and to assure me I had “missed one of the jolliest things a fellow could see—good rooms, good supper, good wines, good music, good partners, and capital floor.”

Of the Ball attended by the present Sovereign in 1905 many members must have lively recollections, Sir Stanley Reed, the historian of the tour, writes in “The Royal Tour in India, 1905-6”:

“The Club Ball was the social event of the visit, and brought within the hospitable old walls, which have looked down upon generations of Anglo-Indian revels, guests from every part of the Presidency: from Bombay, where the season is as crowded as in the Riviera, and from remote up-country stations, where a dance is the dissipation of the year and a score of white faces a mob. It was an evening too to make the stranger within the gates wonder at the manner of men and women who represent Anglo-Saxondom in the Tropics. For the moist steamy

air was unstirred by the faintest breeze, and the beautiful gardens, sparkling with fairy lights and glowing softly with Chinese lanterns, seemed to call every sensible man and woman. Yet an hour before Their Royal Highnesses arrived there were hundreds of couples in the great Ball-room dancing as vigorously as at the Portland Rooms, with no thought of the morrow and complete abandonment to the joy of the present. On this happy throng descended the Prince and Princess of Wales a little after ten o'clock and almost immediately took their places for the state quadrille when Her Royal Highness had Mr. Leslie Crawford, the President of the Club, for her partner, and the Prince danced with Lady Amptill. When the music died away the Prince and Princess retired to the drawing-room, where they remained in conversation with the principal guests until the strains of "The Roast Beef of Old England" announced the serving of supper. It was midnight before the Prince and Princess left for Government House, and nearly dawn before the last of the guests quitted the precincts of the hospitable Club."

Changing fashion has deprived the annual Ball of much of its former splendour. Twenty-five years ago naval and military officers used to attend the Ball in full dress, and, as those were the days of expensive and showy uniforms, added much to the brilliance of the ball-room. Another feature of those days was the "second supper" in the Kiosk, after the ladies had gone, which usually ended in a sing-song that was often prolonged until the rising sun reminded the last guests that it was time to go home.

The occasional concerts given in the Club to which ladies are invited, and gymkhanas in the compound, practically round off the list of social festivities and entertainments. Two rather remarkable precedents for them may be quoted. The first, of an almost incredible nature, is taken from *The Times of India* of December 18, 1865 :—

“ We are requested to remind the subscribers to the special circus* entertainment given by the members of the Byculla Club that the day fixed upon for the performance is to-morrow, and that names of guests should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, Byculla Club, not later than to-day.”

The second is from the life of Lord Randolph Churchill, who came to India in 1885, and in Bombay stayed with Sir James Fergusson at Government House. His letters to England contain the following :—“ The Bombay Club asked me to a dinner but I declined, as there would have been speeches and more or less of a political demonstration against the Ripon party, which would never have done. I

* The Club seems at an earlier date to have been a patron of the drama as is shown by an advertisement of 1853 :—

Bombay Theatre :—The Managing Committee beg to announce that on Monday next, the 7th instant, will be produced

The Fast Coach :

Betsy Baker :

and

Diamond Cut Diamond.

Prices of Admission.

Dress Circle	..	..	..	..	Rs.	4
Stalls	..	..	..	..	„	3
Gallery	..	..	..	..	„	2
Pit	..	..	..	..	„	1

Tickets are to be had at The Gazette Office, Byculla Club, and at the Theatre, where seats can be secured.

did not come out to India to pursue politics or to make speeches Last night (January 8) we dined at the Byculla Club with several gentlemen, when an American lady gave us some very dull recitations from Tennyson : we were all much bored." It is, alas ! impossible to invent the theory that he was mistaken, and dined, and was bored somewhere else, for the Club weight book now in use (which dates from 1880) contains the following circumstantial evidence :—

	st.	lbs.
7 Jan. 1885, Lord Randolph Churchill	..10	10
„ „ Sir Charles Sargent	..13	3

CHAPTER V.

GAMES AND RECREATIONS.

OF few aspects of the Club's history is it more perplexing to write than that dealt with in this chapter. Games come into and go out of fashion with such bewildering rapidity that some of them are easily forgotten, and references in the old minute books to their existence are not as a rule helpful to the historian. Even when there is a record of suggestions having been made for some fresh provision for games, it is not always possible to find out whether they were executed. The old card books have disappeared, but if tradition is to be believed the Whist players of ancient days would have turned up their noses at the one rupee a hundred stakes of latter day Auction Bridge players. One striking fact, however, emerges from a survey of such scanty material as exists, and that is the evidence that is afforded of the importation into India of something of the Puritan spirit of sabbatarian observance. The phenomenon is not to be wondered at, nor in the circumstances will surprise be felt at any early attempts to break down the tradition of the "English Sunday." The late Mr. Craigie, who joined the Club in 1866 and lived in it more or less without interruption until 1914, used to tell tales of adventurous rides on Sunday mornings ending up with gargantuan tiffins. To each man a liberal allowance of champagne and

burgundy mixed, a sole or pomphret apiece, a beefsteak apiece, a duck apiece, curry, and an omelette. After capping this repast with a bottle of port each, the members of the party were wont to rest a while before dining out! A solid mid-day meal was after all part of the mid-Victorian ritual for the observance of Sunday. Until quite recently there was a Club rule that "no play of any kind shall be allowed on Sundays in the public rooms of the Club. This rule shall not apply to Golf, Racquets, Chess, or Billiards." That rule, for long disregarded, has been removed and in other respects there has been a falling away from grace. In the 'fifties Sunday observance was so rigidly enforced that fines were imposed if lights were kept burning in the sitting rooms after midnight on Saturday.* Nor was it considered correct to settle bets on a Sunday, as incidentally appears from the following proposal made in 1852:—"That the 15th of every month, unless the same shall fall on a Sunday, and then on the following Monday, shall in future be the fixed settling day for all bets lost within the precincts of the Club during the preceding month, and, in the event of any losing party making default, the winner shall be at liberty to hand up his name to the Committee as a defaulter and the Committee, on being satisfied of the fact that no *bona fide* dispute exists as to the losing party's liability and that reasonable consideration has been extended to him, shall be at liberty to post his name in a conspicuous part of the Club as a defaulter under this rule, and in the event of the debt not being dis-

* On the other hand, we go to bed earlier nowadays: lights were formerly allowed until 2 a.m., now 1 a.m. is the limit.

charged within 10 days from the day of posting, the members so posted shall cease *ipso facto* to belong to the Club and shall be incapable under any circumstance of re-election. This rule is not to interfere with any settling day of racing bets by the steward of the Bombay races." This proposal, it should be added, was rejected by a large majority at the half yearly general meeting. Since then bets have gone out of fashion and there is no occasion for settling days.

Of games that have gone out of fashion there are occasional traces in the Club records. Has Poker ever been fashionable in the Club? There is presumptive evidence that it was not, at any rate among the senior members. Lord Sandhurst, in a recent speech in London about Sir James Campbell, said he would never forget the night when, after dinner at his hospitable table at the Byculla Club, they went down to the committee room and heard Sir James Campbell read the preliminary confidential report on the proposed Improvement trust legislation. Members of the club seeing them descending to the basement gave out that the Governor and a few of his friends had gone off to have a quiet game of poker! One reference to skittles* is rather bewildering. At a meeting of the Committee, held in May 1854, it was resolved: "That Cawasjee, the acting steward, be requested to superintend and put in thorough repair—before the rains—the skittle shed, the ground of which

* A day or two after these lines were written, the following circular was sent round to members: "A Bowling Green has been prepared for members who wish to play. Bowls can be obtained by application to the Hall Clerk," (12th April 1915).

is to be raised to a level with the platforms of the tents and well chuppered over, half the expense being borne by the Club, the other half by the members of the Skittle Association." History has nothing to tell us of this Skittle Association, there is no record of it in the Bombay Calendars of that date though they mention Yacht, Cricket, and Golf Clubs. If it ever lived, it seems to have died unsung and to have been forgotten. So too have passed away the backgammon boards, to the bad condition of which there is a reference in an old complaint book.

In 1861 the Committee invited contributions towards the formation of a library, and of other means of recreation such as a rifle range and butt, a racket court, bowling green, swimming bath; etc. This fund seems to have made little progress until 1868, when it was determined to procure standard works for the library with Rs. 1,820 subscribed by members and to invite suggestions of suitable books from members. In 1862 a proposal to build a swimming bath, with funds to be raised by debentures on the Club, was negatived, but five years later was again brought forward with the suggestion that Government should give a grant-in-aid "on the basis of permitting all officers of the garrison, not being members, to make use of the bath." Once again the scheme was shelved but on its revival in 1873 a special general meeting sanctioned the construction of a swimming bath at a cost not exceeding Rs. 20,000, which amount, if necessary, should be raised by debentures, but it was determined—and this accounts for the bath not having been built—that the Committee should not proceed with the construction until the amount of

the loan required for that purpose had been raised.

The provision of billiard tables was one of the first cares of the Committee, and it is interesting to note that in 1843 the charges, for the one billiard table by then provided, were fixed as follows :—

DAY TIME.

A rubber of 24 to the game	..	1 anna.
A single game of 51	.. ..	1 „
A single game of 101	.. ..	2 annas.
A double match of 31	.. ..	2 „

The charges at night were double the above, but the table can hardly have been self-supporting. In July, 1845, the accounts show—

Due to Thurston, for Billiard Table Cloth
£27-8-0 (Rs. 296-11-4).

Due to Thurston, for Cushions £33-10-6 (Rs.
357-9-7).

The new cloth may have been badly wanted, for earlier in the year a certain subaltern, “having cut the billiard cloth, a bill for Rs. 15 was presented to him in accordance with the bye-laws. The bill was returned with the words ‘Catch a weasel asleep’ written on it and no signature.” This contumelious act had of course to be considered by a meeting of the Club, but was forgiven after due apology had been made.

In 1844 the Club had two billiard tables, and the rules—which were to be displayed in the billiard rooms—include the following, which is a curious reminder of the slow rate of scoring attained on the old tables with wooden beds and list cushions :—

“Members are only to play Rubbers of 24 up or a single game of 50 as long as the name of any other Member is on the slate, after which they are to give place to the Member next on the slate.” Twenty years later it was resolved that “no game shall exceed 63 up, so long as there are one or more names entered on the slates.” But the two subsequent enlargements of the billiard room, which made it possible to have four tables instead of two, must have done away with the need for short games, even if the game had not changed in character owing to the development of the table. The game of 101, which is still played in the Club, reappears in the rules in 1878—the charges then ranging from.

	By day.		By night.	
	Rs.	a.	Rs.	a.
Single game of 63 or under	..	0 3	0	6
Do. do. 101	..	0 6	0	12
Do. do. 501	..	10 0	20	0

That cricket was played in Bombay before the foundation of the Byculla Club is more than probable, for whenever Englishmen are gathered together, a cricket match is bound to be arranged. That it was played before the Bombay Gymkhana came into existence is certain, as can be proved by certain old photographs still to be seen depicting teams representing the North versus the South of the Presidency. These were taken in the late 'sixties or early 'seventies but whether the matches were played on the Maidan or elsewhere cannot be stated. No record of cricket matches in which the Byculla Club was engaged can be found before the year 1889, when the first game with the Bombay



By Cecil L. Burns.

Face p. 94.

THE HALL AND BILLIARD ROOM.

Gymkhana was played, a fixture which has been continued without a break, except when rain has made cricket impossible, down to the present time. The scores and results of these matches will prove interesting, and are as follows :—

1889.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Byculla Club	119	36 (for five wickets).
Bombay Gymkhana ..	111	—

Result.—Byculla Club won by 8 runs.

1890.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Byculla Club	148	—
Bombay Gymkhana ..	168	—

Result.—Bombay Gymkhana won by 20 runs.

1891.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Byculla Club	132	76
Bombay Gymkhana ..	131	—

Result.—Byculla Club won by 1 run.

1892.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Bombay Gymkhana ..	126	—
Byculla Club	8 (for two wickets).	—

Result.—Match drawn.

1893.

No match on account of rain.

1894.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Byculla Club	239	—
Bombay Gymkhana ..	153	—

Result.—Byculla Club won by 86 runs.

1895.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Byculla Club	161	—
Bombay Gymkhana ..	135	—

Result.—Byculla Club won by 26 runs.

1896.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Byculla Club	273	—
Bombay Gymkhana ..	140	—

Result.—Byculla Club won by 133 runs.

1897.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Byculla Club	272 (for five wickets).	—
Bombay Gymkhana ..	186 (for nine wickets).	—

Result.—Match drawn.

1898.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Byculla Club	235	—
Bombay Gymkhana ..	97	—

Result.—Byculla Club won by 138 runs.

1899.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Bombay Gymkhana ..	50	117 (for two wickets).
Byculla Club	104	33 (for one wicket).

Result.—Byculla Club won by 54 runs.

1900.

No match on account of rain.

1901.

No match on account of rain.

1902.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Byculla Club	119	112 (for six wickets).

Bombay Gymkhana ..	208	—
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Result.—Bombay Gymkhana won by 89 runs.

1903.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Byculla Club	142	—
Bombay Gymkhana ..	158 (for four wickets.)	—

Result.—Bombay Gymkhana won by 16 runs.

1904.

No match on account of rain.

1905.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Byculla Club	217	—
Bombay Gymkhana ..	136	—

Result.—Byculla Club won by 81 runs.

1906.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Bombay Gymkhana ..	201 (for five wickets).	—
Byculla Club	47	—

Result.—Bombay Gymkhana won by 154 runs.

1907.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Bombay Gymkhana ..	175 (for five wickets).	—
Byculla Club	128	—

Result.—Bombay Gymkhana won by 47 runs.

1908.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Bombay Gymkhana ..	271	—
Byculla Club	123	99 (for four wickets).

Result.—Bombay Gymkhana won by 148 runs.

1909.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Byculla Club	37	—
Bombay Gymkhana ..	194 (for 8 wickets).	—

Result.—Bombay Gymkhana won by 157 runs.

1910.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Byculla Club	98	—
Bombay Gymkhana ..	108	—

Result.—Bombay Gymkhana won by 10 runs.

1911.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Bombay Gymkhana ..	225	—
Byculla Club	107	71 (for eight wickets).

Result.—Bombay Gymkhana won by 118 runs.

1912.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Bombay Gymkhana ..	179	—
Byculla Club	175	—

Result.—Bombay Gymkhana won by 4 runs.

1913.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Bombay Gymkhana ..	237	—
Byculla Club	119 (for nine wickets).	—

Result.—Match drawn.

1914.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Byculla Club	151	—
Bombay Gymkhana ..	110	—

Result.—Byculla Club won by 41 runs.

1915.

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Bombay Gymkhana ..	280 (for seven wickets).	—
Byculla Club	270 (for seven wickets).	—

Result.—Match drawn.

1915.

(Return Match.)

	1ST INNINGS.	2ND INNINGS.
Byculla Club	224	—
Bombay Gymkhana ..	141	—

Result.—Byculla Club won by 83 runs.

The score as regards the whole series stands as follows :—

Byculla Club won	10
Bombay Gymkhana won	10
Drawn	4

The matches in 1893, 1900, 1904 and 1905 were not played on account of rain. In 1915 two matches were played.

It will be seen that from 1889 to 1893 the teams were very evenly matched, but from 1894 to 1898 the Byculla Club entirely outplayed their opponents. Since that date, however, the Bombay Gymkhana team has generally held the upper hand, until the last two years when victory has again been with the Club. During the first thirteen years of the contest the Byculla Club won seven matches and were defeated thrice, while during the last eleven years its team won only three matches and were defeated upon seven occasions. The great years of Byculla Club Cricket were those from 1894 to 1898, when out of five matches played, four were won by substantial margins of runs and one was drawn greatly in the Club's favour. There were good players on each side during these years but the success of the Club was due to its team including two first class cricketers in Messrs. M. R. Jardine and E. B. Raikes, both of whom distinguished themselves with bat and ball. Mr. Jardine's record for these five years reads :

BATTING.

No. of Innings.	Total number of runs.	Highest score.	Times not out.	Average.
5	571	178	....	114·1

BOWLING.

No. of Innings.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
5	266	20	13·6

Mr. Raikes' record reads :—

BATTING.

No. of Innings.	Total number of runs.	Highest score.	Times not out.	Average.
4	133	86 (not out)	1	41

BOWLING.

No. of Innings.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
4	179	19	9·8

Mr. Jardine's scores for the five innings were 46, 85, 178, 129 and 137, and his batting and bowling average for all matches of this annual fixture in which he has taken part reads as follows :—

BATTING.

No. of Innings.	Total number of runs.	Highest score.	Times not out.	Average.
14	809	178	1	62·3

BOWLING.

No. of Innings.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average
11	331	25	13·6

How many runs Mr. Jardine saved by his brilliant fielding cannot be stated. Before he and Mr. Raikes brought victory to the Club, Mr. E. E. Steel did fine work, with both bat and ball. His highest score was 80 in 1890 and his best performance with the ball was in taking five wickets for thirty-eight runs in 1889. After a long series of defeats, the Club again has the assistance of a first class cricketer in Mr. H. L. Simms, whose skill as a bowler and vigour as a batsman have helped to stem the tide and bring victory to the team once more.

Of those members who took part in the first match only two are still in India, Mr. E. F. Nicholson who scored 27 runs, and Dr. J. W. Field who took 3 wickets for 29 runs on that occasion ; but Sir Marshall Reid, who but recently retired, was also a member of the team.

It will perhaps prove an interesting appendix to this short record of a fixture that may now claim to be described as historic, to give the names of some of those members who took part in the earlier games, and who are still in this country or have retired within comparatively recent years. These are H. G. Gell, Sir Basil Scott, E. Giles, W. W. Drew, H. C. Wright, Sir J. Heaton, Mr. Justice Macleod, J. E. C. Bowen, G. R. Lowndes, G. S. Curtis, Lieut.-Col. J. G. Hojel, A. Muirhead, Sir J. Du Boulay, D. B. Binning, L. J. Robertson—and to conclude with a list of those members who have made scores of 20 or more in any match of the series :—

M. R. Jardine, 178, 137, 129, 85, 82, 46, 39, 37, 34, 22, 20. E. B. Raikes, 86, 28, 20. E. E. Steel, 80. A. H. S. Aston, 77, 40, 22. Mr. Wimbush, 70, 31.

M. F. Reid, 65. R. T. H. Mackenzie, 62. E. F. Nicholson, 60, 27. H. L. Simms, 59. E. L. Sale, 57, 42. C. D. Baker, 56, 22. Sir F. L. Sprott, 53, 37. S. M. McCausland, 47. D. B. Binning, 33. P. R. Cadell, 33, 25. R. E. A. Elliot, 32, 30. C. L. Burns, 32, 26. E. Vlasto, 31. A. Muirhead, 28. H. F. P. Hearson, 25. A. L. Walker, 25. G. H. White, 25. L. Graham, 24. R. S. Campbell, 24. W. W. Drew, 22. L. G. Colbeck, 21. J. Monteath, 20. H. G. Gell, 20. L. B. Stephens, 20.

The building of a Racket Court, as contemplated in the original Prospectus quoted in Chapter II, was again suggested, by Mr. Howard, in 1842, but nothing seems to have resulted from the proposal beyond a request to Lieutenant Suart to favour the Committee with a rough estimate of the probable expense. The project was revived at intervals, but did not mature until 1874. The court was ready for use in the following year when a marker was engaged on Rs. 30 per mensem, and the charges were fixed at annas two per game per man. Balls were As. 2 each. The court, chiefly on account of its great size—which led to doubles being usually played—has seldom been used for rackets since the construction of the smaller court at the Gymkhana in 1882. For a time, however, when its only rival in Bombay was an open air court at Colaba, it was a favourite place of meeting on Sunday mornings, when Sir W. Lee-Warner and H. G. Gell were among the best players. In the early 'nineties it was suggested that "sticky" should be tried in the court, and that game became very popular for some years, particularly on Sunday mornings during the monsoon. "The best sticky players,"

writes a member, "were Gell and Macaulay and later on Raikes and M. R. Jardine. There may be some who will remember a particularly convivial post-sticky breakfast in Christmas day, 1892, at which almost every one in the Club drank Chambertin and Hart-Davies* exhibited his remarkable skill as a conjuror to the revellers." Sticky has had its day and the old racket court, though it has been divided up into squash racket courts, fails to attract players.

Every generation seems to devote itself for a brief space to the joys of roller skating, a form of recreation invented in the 'sixties, and in 1876 a resolution was carried that a rink should be laid down in the compound, the cost to be paid by subscribing members. There is no record of this rink having been constructed, but at the Bombay Gymkhana in the following year a cement flooring was laid down and used as a rink until 1880 when the floor was used for the game, now extinct in Bombay of "Indian Lawn Tennis," which may have had its devotees at the Byculla Club also. The writer is unable to trace when lawn tennis was introduced, but in 1876 an estimate was submitted for making a new lawn tennis "ground" at Rs. 34-12-0. Three years earlier Rs. 1,000 had been voted for making croquet and badminton grounds and for the erection of a pavilion near them. Ladies were invited to the Club in the afternoons to play those games. For a time also badminton was played in the Kiosk.

A Golf course of 9 holes was laid out in 1908, after the compound had been filled—though when the

* Thomas Hart-Davies in the I.C.S. 1869-1897. Liberal Member of Parliament for North Hackney, 1906-10. The author of that famous work "India in 1893."

latter measure was first proposed one member stated that there was no demand by the resident members of the Club for provision for games. Bunkers were not put up, but, even without that attraction and when the ground was in its roughest state, a fair number of members used to play on it, and Lord and Lady Sydenham—attended by a retinue of little dogs and large chaprasis—were at one time frequent players. A few years before the golf course had been made, a proposal was brought forward by Donald Graham and others to make a polo ground in the compound ; but the scheme, which would have involved heavy expenditure, came to nothing.

CHAPTER VI.

THE RACE COURSE.

THE earliest reference to horse racing in Bombay is contained in the following extract from *The Bombay Courier* of the 25th November, 1797 :—“ A plan having been set on foot for establishing races at this Presidency, which has hitherto met with very general encouragement, this is to give notice that in the course of next month a race will be run for a purse of 50 pounds. After the race there will be breakfast for the ladies and gentlemen at the race stand and a ball and supper in the evening.” By the 21st December, 1797, sufficient funds had been subscribed by “ the gentlemen of the settlement ” to allow of two plates being run, the first for colts not above 5 years old and the second for aged horse, and the 10th January was fixed as the first day of the two days’ meeting. Instructions were issued to the public that the first heat would be run at 7 A.M. and that breakfast would be served in tents “ on the high ground opposite Colonel Jones’ house.” The meeting proved highly successful, among those who played a prominent part being one Captain Hall of the *Sullivan*, “ who, as a friend to the Turf, saluted the last day’s race with fifteen guns.” By 1800 or the following year the Bombay Turf Club had been established, and it presented a prize of one hundred gold mohurs, to be added to a sweepstake of Rs. 100

apiece, with a view to encourage the breeding of horses by gentlemen in Bombay and its dependencies. The founders of the Turf Club were Sir Charles Forbes, G. Hall, A. Campbell, P. Hadow and others. One of their first cares had been to make a suitable course and through the good offices of the *Patel* of Bombay, Dorabji Rustomji, they acquired the rights of racing over land at Byculla. Among the 18 owners of fields with whom the negotiations had to be carried on were the grandfather of Muncherji Framji Sethna, from whom the Byculla Club afterwards bought its land. The success of the undertaking must have led to the building of the Assembly Rooms, where possibly "Qui Hi" breakfasted on the occasion of his adventure with the Bobbery Hunt and where at a later date hounds use often to meet.*

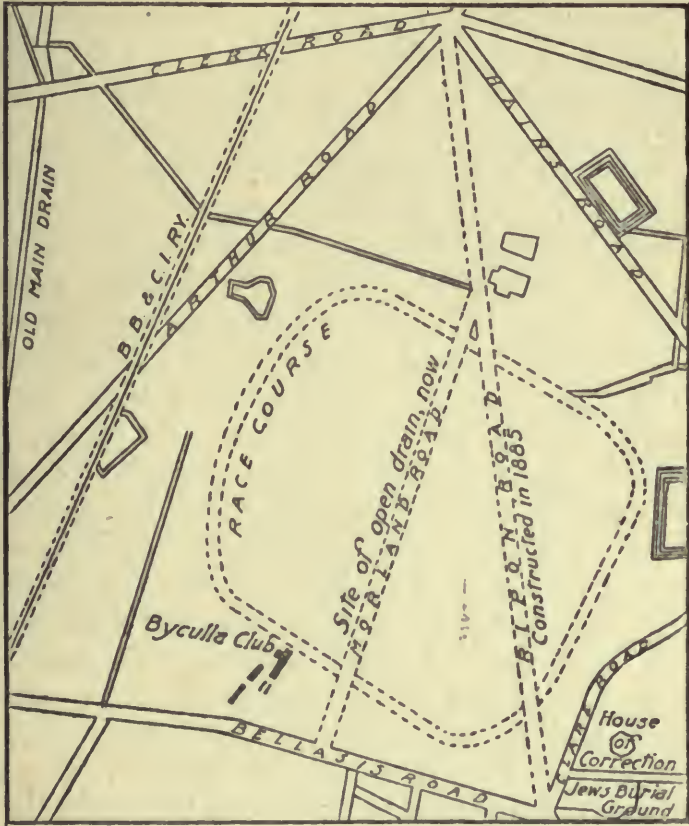
Next morning's sun had just arisen,
 And drove the dusky clouds from heaven,
 Ere *Qui Hi*, on his *Arab horse*,
 Sets off to find *Byculla* course ;
 Where, 'twas determined, ev'ry man
 Should meet before the hunt began.
 Their breakfast now the sportsmen take,
 Merely a "*plug* of malt" and steak.

* "About 1822 decayed the celebrated *Bobbery Hunt*: celebrated for scouring the country in pursuit of their purpose—in running down the jackal and buffalo; the Byculla flats and localities between Sion and Warli appear to have had their especial regard. Upon the same principle, but with nobler game to combat, were the *Bristles* of Varsova and the afterwards *Pewter-pot Hunt*: but all these have been extinguished with that love for saddle, spur, and spear...The Bobbery however had its own gay uniform, and its own house—now in ruins at the foot of Malabar Hill and on the road towards the Point: and on St. Patrick's day the members of the Hunt met to an entertainment—given with all the zest of a crowning feast." (*The Monthly Miscellany of Western India*. September, 1850.)

The bugle's signal now, of course,
 Summon'd the bobbery to horse :
 They get the word, and off they move,
 In all directions, to Love-Grove.

Hunting of a more dignified kind, it may be added parenthetically, was of later introduction in Bombay than racing, and the first notice of a pack of hounds belongs to the year 1830, prior to which date sport was confined to hunting with the bobbery pack and to annual "rides" round the Island. In 1810, for example, the programme of the ride consisted of breakfast at Malabar Point at 9 a.m., then a sharp trot to "the Beach," Love Grove and Worli, ending up with tiffin at one o'clock in Mahim. After tiffin the party rode *via* Mahim, Sion and Mazagon to Hope Hall, where dinner was served at 6 p.m. Of the Bobbery Hunt an interesting unpublished record survives in a collection of small water-colour drawings, made by an artist named Temple, one of the band of the 60th, now in the library of the India Office. It was apparently the custom of the Hunt to hold an annual breakfast in a large tent on the Esplanade at which much beer was consumed. Other drawings, dated 1811, show the jovial hunters round a bonfire on the hill above Lowjee Castle : there is also a drawing of the Sportsmen's Hall and Bath, which seem to have belonged to the Bobbery Hunt. In 1830, the "Bombay Foxhounds" were in existence, but owing to the difficulty of obtaining foxes or jackals in sufficient quantity, a drag was usually arranged. On occasions, however, a few foxes were sent down by road from Poona to Panwell and thence across the harbour to be eventually turned down in the Parel district. Up to the late 'eighties the

hunt continued to meet on Thursdays in the Island of Bombay, and occasionally met with unexpected sport. At least once hounds followed a hyæna and a sword bayonet had to be borrowed from one of the



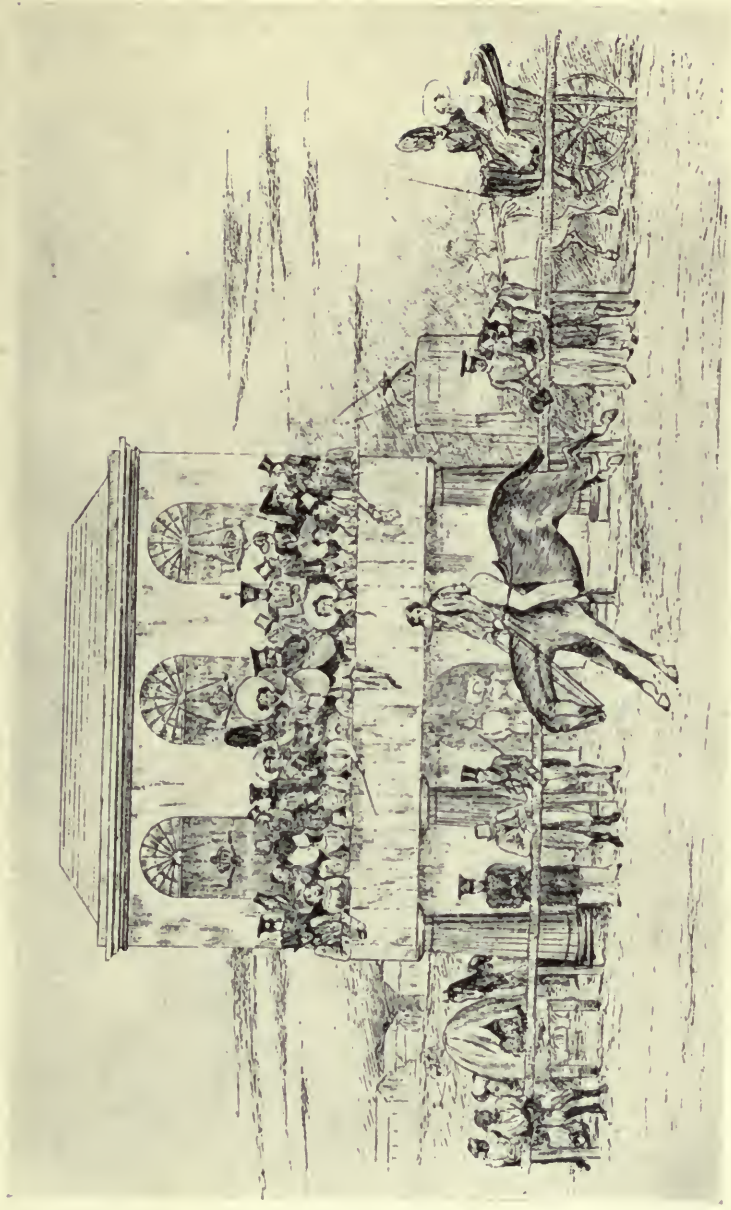
SITE OF THE OLD RACE COURSE.

sepoys than stationed at Sion Fort in order to dispose of it.

The success of the annual races was soon established, though, even after the Assembly Rooms had

been built, there was a curious informality about some of the races. It is on record, for instance, in *The Oriental Sporting Magazine* that on April 29, 1829, a race took place between four horses out of the rival stables of Moola Hatchim and Daddy Suntook. Other minor races followed and, according to the writer, another meeting was to be held a fortnight later. "The whole day's sport originated with the Arabs, and ought, we think, to be encouraged, as it induces them to bring their best cattle before the public. The attendance on the course was chiefly confined to the turbanned tribe diversified with the goatskin cap of the Persian. Only a few Englishmen were present, and they were—trumps."

The amusing sketch of the Bombay races given in Colonel Davidson's "Memories of a Long Life" must belong to about this period. He arrived in Bombay in 1828, but his book gives no more in explanation of the illustration than the following:—"I give here a sketch of Mark Antony when he was entered for the hack plate at Bombay, but refused, with much kicking, to the amusement of the spectators rather than his rider, to move to the starting post. The picture will give some idea of the costumes that prevailed in Bombay sixty years ago for most of the figures are real portraits. One of these, the gentleman in gaiters leaning on the railing is the notable Robin Grey. He was brought from his wilds below the Cheviots by Sir John Malcolm, who appointed him Chief Magistrate of Bombay." A better known account of the races in the old days is that given by Mrs. Postans, in "Western India in 1838." She wrote: "The races, which



From "Memories of a Long Life," by Lt.-Col. D. Davidson.

BOMBAY HACK PLATE.

take place in January, cause considerable excitement to lovers of the turf. The course is kept in good order, and the Club-house, the wide verandah of which forms the stand, is crowded on the occasion : gloves are lost and won, and bright eyes welcome the owners of the favourite horses, as anxiously as they might at Ascot ; but the race itself can only be of interest to those who either own horses or have heavy bets depending. Some gentlemen prefer riding their own race to trusting native jockeys, who, however well they may be able to train, certainly cannot ride. The *Chiffney* of Western India, a Mahomedan called Suffur-oo-deen, might, however, when arrayed in his racing gear, be mistaken for an English jockey ; but he has no rival in his calling, and is as well known to the Indian racing-world as the celebrated "Goblin Grey" (a celebrated and beautiful racer, long the property of Major Morris, an officer well known upon the turf) whom he so often brought triumphantly to the winning post. Large fortunes have been scattered in India, as elsewhere, by the mania for this species of gambling, which has produced the additional evil of increasing the value of horses, the Arab dealers well knowing they can procure almost any price for a promising colt, as the racing season approaches." The foregoing description suggests a flourishing state of affairs, but in the following year the local press heard that the sporting circles of the Deccan and Guzerat were almost in despair of getting up any races in the mofussil that year, owing to the absence of so many patrons of the turf on foreign service. "We hope, however, the season here will not pass

over without a meeting, and that those lovers of the turf who are disappointed in the provinces of their accustomed annual triumphs will concentrate their forces at the Presidency in February and gallantly sustain the reputation of the Bombay Turf." The hope was not disappointed, for a five days' meeting was held on the Byculla course, being organised by "the friends of the turf" who arranged to have a dinner and a selling lottery in the Club on the opening day.

In the early days of Bombay racing, betting seems to have been slight. "The turf in those days in India," writes Stocqueler, referring to the 'twenties, "was a gentlemanly pastime. The owners of the horses were 'upper crust' men, and though they betted a little on their Arabs and country-breds, the figures were mild. A pony (Rs. 250) perhaps represented the greatest stake. Warden, Newnham, Crawford (of the house of Remington & Co.), a Major Moor, the Brigade-Major of King's Troops, and two or three of the up-country staff formed the racing circle. The annual meeting was a gay time—in Yankee phrase, 'quite a time'—for the public at large." Whatever may have been the case as regards betting, lotteries drawn at the Club, of which an early example has just been cited, were for many years a distinctive feature of the racing, and eventually became, like bookmakers in our own time, an offence to many. "In defiance of the law," said *The Times of India* in 1865, "Race lotteries are still carried on. Now, no matter who the parties are, the Government officials should not shrink from doing their obvious duty. Whether here, or in

Madras, or in Calcutta, or elsewhere, it matters not, the law is clear and decisive against race or other lotteries of the kind. In Baden rouge-et-noir is made a part of the revenue of the state, and even a sovereign Potentate pockets his francs with a willing and a welcome smile. Is Sir Bartle Frere prepared to do likewise here? We should like to have the opinion of the Carlton or the Reform Clubs on such proceedings as are countenanced here, and we should also like the opinion of the Judges as to the race lotteries, conducted as they are in Bombay. We have no desire to say one word against the many honourable men who are on the Turf in India, and who try to promote real sport; but in drawing attention to a matter which is a disgrace to Bombay and the Turf itself, we are simply doing a public duty."

Lady Falkland, whose husband was appointed Governor of Bombay in the spring of 1848, wrote in her book of memoirs:—"The races at Bombay take place in the afternoon. It is sure not to rain, but it is certain to be very hot. It is a pretty gay sight. All the natives go; and there is such a strange mixture of people. You may see in the crowd a Bombay European exquisite by the side of a dirty fakir. Here is a group of Parsees—there is a Jew; and there are Hindoos of all castes—Mussulmans, people from Scinde, with square caps (very much like those of the English Lancers), Portuguese, English sailors, Chinese with long tails, native soldiers, and Armenians."

There is an absence of detail from the various narratives already quoted, that may in part be supplied

from an advertisement in *The Bombay Times*, 27th January, 1851 :—

We beg to call the attention of the sporting community to the accompanying notice and to assure the public, also the owners of horses, that the rules for starting will be most rigidly enforced

NOTICE.

The Bombay Turf Challenge Cup will be run for the last day of the meeting. For all Arabs. 2 Miles. 9 stone. 20 G.M. Entrance. P.P. To close on Saturday the 1st of February at 4 p.m. and name the day before the race.

The roped-in enclosure which contains the Stewards' Stand, and weighing house, is only open to the Stewards and Owners of horses. Each of these gentlemen will be furnished with a ticket of admission signed by the Secretary. On no pretence whatever will a gentleman unprovided with such ticket be allowed into this enclosure, or on the Stewards' Stand.

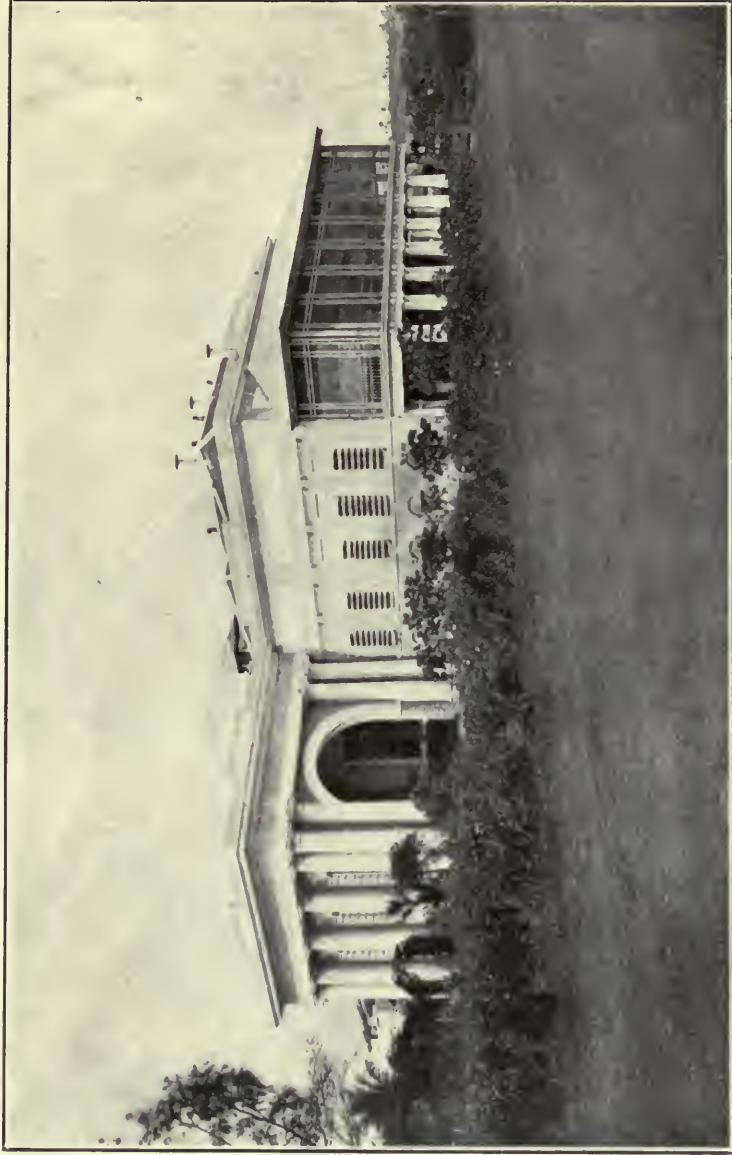
The price of admission to the new Race Stand is One Rupee each.

No "reference" for money will be taken: Cash required or no admittance.

The time for starting each race will be named in the daily prospectus and at the appointed moment those horses at the post will be started without any reference to those behind their time.

The starter will take his time from the Cathedral Clock. The first race each day to start at 4½ p.m. precisely.

The advertisement suggests the occurrence of occasional trouble between the race officials and the public, but the complaints were not all one side as will be seen from this account of a race run ten years later :—“ This race spoilt the sport of the evening, and we regret very much to say that the blame appeared to be with the gentleman who started the horses. At 20 minutes past 5 o'clock the cry ' Off ' was given, and immediately after from the Stewards' stand were heard uttered the words ' False start ' !— ' False start ' ! which was only too evident. Champion and Mistake were the only horses off, and, of course, when passing the Stewards' stand, a dozen cries went forth of ' False start ' !— ' False start ' !



From a photograph lent by Mrs. Burns.

THE CLUB WITH RACE-COURSE IN THE FOREGROUND.

Face p. 114.

—but to no effect, as the riders seemed bent on making the course. The two horses went round, Champion crowding closely on his predecessor. But it was generally allowed that the race was won by Mistake. The riders drove in to the weighing stand and here a dispute ensued. Several gentlemen declared that it was no race. Ali Abdullah declared that the gentleman sang ‘Off’! and he started fairly; while Bullock affirmed that this same gentleman not only said ‘Off!’ but added ‘Why the devil don’t you go?’ One gentleman said that ‘Ali would make Rs. 19,000 out of that lot if it passed as a race,’ and a consultation of the Stewards was held. After an hour it was decided that the race was no race, and should be run again. Ali Abdullah protested against this decision, and both Mistake and Champion were withdrawn. The race was then run minus these two horses after two false starts. It was now nearly half past six o’clock and so dark that the stand crowded with people had to be lighted up—so dark at any rate that the Stewards should have had the wisdom to have put off the race. But the horses were out and off. No-one from the stand saw them start, and in this confusion of darkness no time was kept. The race was a dead heat between Highlander and British Flag, the former seeming to have the best of it. But the question is open and to be decided hereafter.”

Another amusing record of the same year shows that the dust nuisance, of which race-goers still complain as they revile the Municipality for not watering the roads, is no new institution. “The Club house, the rendezvous of fashion, showed a slightly increased

attendance, and the Bellasis Road, leading to the course, from the hour of 2 p.m. was crowded with turbanned lovers of sport hardly discernible, but upon a near view, from the dark clouds of dust filling the atmosphere. It's a great pity that this road is not well-watered as also the ground about the course, on the day of the races. There is no hoodwinking the fact that Mr. Forjett may do better service in his Board Gubernatorial capacity than in that of trooper, and if he only looks after this, we shall award him the regards of the sporting public."

The year 1864 marked the initiation of several far-reaching changes which are briefly summarised in the following extract from *The Bombay Saturday Review*: "The Bombay Race Meeting this year has been, as regards really good racing, the most successful ever known on our turf. With a better course, and more encouragement given to sport by the wealthy European merchants of the place, Bombay would unquestionably take first rank in the racing world of India. We are glad to hear that it has been resolved to hold a meeting early next week for the purpose of forming a West of India Turf Club, of which it is probable that Mr. S. D. Birch will be invited to become the President. Such a Club ought to become the accepted authority in racing matters for all stations in the Presidency. Its first duty should be to collect subscriptions for building a Grand Stand, as the present custom of using the Byculla Club House as the Grand Stand has its inconveniences. Connected with this subject is the general question whether it would not be advisable to have a new course in place of the strip of dusty

stony road which now does duty as a course at Byculla. What with the railways and the Foras roads across the flats, and the building that is going on all round, Byculla will soon become (if it is not already) quite unsuited for the purposes of horse-racing : and it would be prudent to consider in time whether a move further out of town ought not to be made as soon as possible."

The reformer was ahead of the times and it was not until some years later that the idea of finding a new race-course was seriously entertained. But the question of increased stand accommodation was at once taken in hand. In 1865 the Committee decided upon "erecting a Grand Stand facing the winning post for the accommodation of ladies and visitors." This stand had seats for 600 persons and was ready by the following year when it was much appreciated by the public. "This want," according to the Press of the day, "has long been felt by all who have attended the races, except the privileged few who have been admitted in the Stewards' stand, or had the entrance to the verandah of the Byculla Club. The stand referred to is in an excellent position within a few yards of the winning post and commands the best view to be obtained of the whole course. A large number of tickets have been disposed of, the centre front seats having been engaged for H. E. the Governor and suite." But the Club verandah continued to be the envy of those who were excluded from it, as the authority already quoted wrote in 1867 that the "Grand Stand which was erected last year for the first time, through the enterprise of Mr. Jaffer Sulliman, has again made its appearance and will

doubtless be extensively patronised by all who are not fortunate enough to obtain admittance to the verandah of the Byculla Club." Other stands seem to have been put up, to the advantage of the Byculla Club as well of the public, and they led to the first appearance of the Club as a prize-giver at the races. That was in 1870, a resolution having been carried to the effect that "the rent derived from the letting of the Club grounds for stands, etc., at the Bombay races be appropriated each year for a purse called the 'Byculla Club Purse.' The letting of the Club grounds, as allotted by the Committee, to be undertaken by the Honorary Secretary, W. I. Turf Club, who shall publish an account of not less than Rs. 1,000 as added money for the race in question, the conditions of which are to be determined by the W. I. T. C." There, presumably, is the origin of the Byculla Club Cup, but the list of previous winners in the Turf Club race card does not go back to such ancient history.

The proposal to move to a new course, to which reference has already been made, found favour in the late 'seventies. An account of the change is given in *The Times of India* of February 13, 1878. "The Bombay races", it said, "will be held this year on the new course which has just been laid out on the Byculla Flats. The reasons for shifting from the old course at Byculla are two in number. In the first place, many well-to-do people were in the habit of going to the Byculla Club, of taking their friends there and then refusing to subscribe a rupee towards defraying the expenses of the meeting, even when they had won money in the *pari-mutuel* and lotteries.

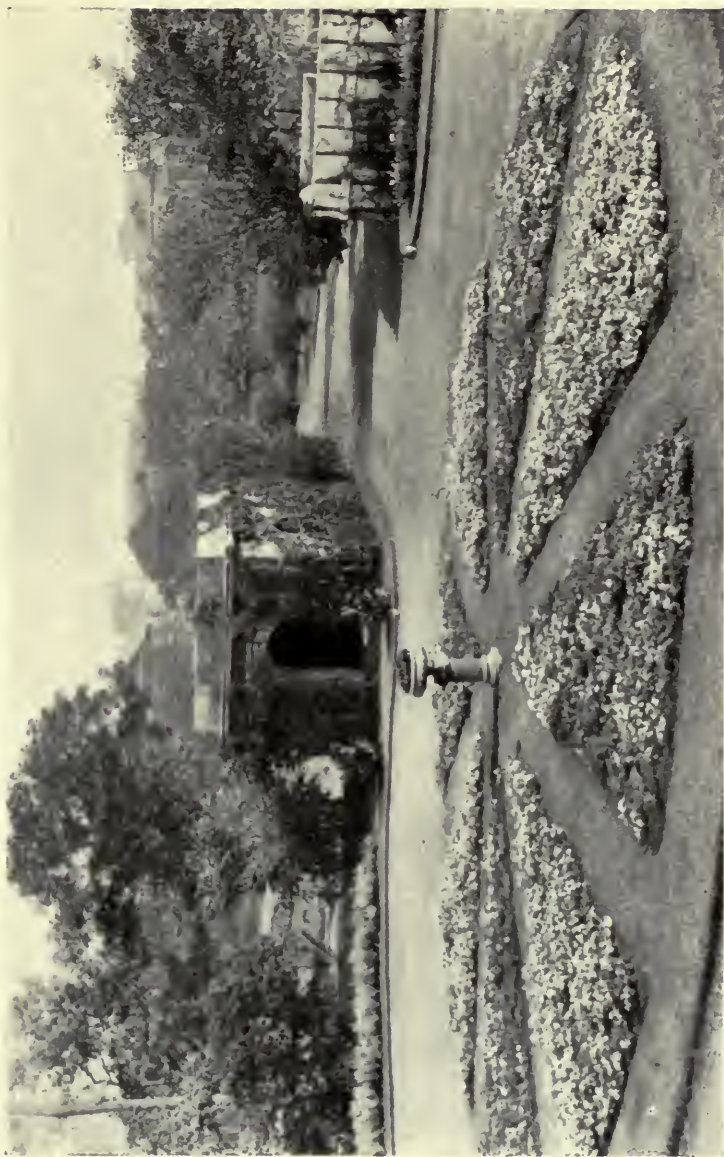
The other objection to the old course was that, with the exception of the start and the finish, but little could be seen of the races, and this little is gradually being narrowed by the erection of huts and chawls. Both these objections will now be removed by the construction of the new course. Admission to the Grand Stand or to the course in carriages will only be by tickets issued to the subscribers of a certain amount, while from the Grand Stand and the Stewards' Stand an uninterrupted view of the whole course can be obtained. The course is two miles in length and in a two mile race the horses will start about 200 yards from the Stewards' Stand, pass it, go round a long oval, and finally finish just opposite the Grand Stand and the Stewards' Stand. The Grand Stand is a large commodious structure capable of accommodating easily about 500 people. Near it here will be a refreshment booth, the contractor for which is Mr. Bounevialle, the well-known wine merchant of Hummum Street. The Stewards' Stand is about twice the size of the old Stewards' Stand, having accommodation for about a hundred people. On the right of the stand there will be an enclosure railed off for a party from Government House, while on the left are the weighing enclosure, the dressing tent, and the *pari-mutuel*, admission to the latter being by payment of a rupee. The course is in capital order, and considering the short time they have had at their disposal every credit is due to the stewards and the secretary for the way in which they have carried out the arrangements." But the attendance was not good and in the following year the experiment was abandoned. The road to the

new course at Worlee was found to be long and even dustier than the road to the Byculla course, and the "evil odours" were not to be endured. In 1879 therefore the Byculla Club was restored to its privileged position, and the public seemed to approve of this reversal to the old state of things. A writer in *The Oriental Sporting Magazine* for that year said: "The return to the old course at Byculla met with general approval, as although the numerous houses that are built inside the course prevent the horses being seen the whole time, yet race-goers would rather put up with this inconvenience, great though it is, than face the long and dusty journey to Worlee and the evil odours that greet them on their arrival there. Certain it is the attendance this afternoon was larger than has been seen for years. The Byculla Club balcony was as usual thronged with spectators, a fair proportion of them being ladies, whose gay toilettes added greatly to the beauty of the scene. The Stewards' Stand and the stand erected by Jaffer Sulliman were well attended, but there were not many carriages in the enclosure, although the course itself was lined with thousands of spectators, mostly natives."

It was only, however, for a few years more that the Byculla course could be used. The public were attached to it and for some time refused to transfer their affections to the new course, but there is no doubt that the Byculla course had for years been unsuitable for racing before the final abandonment of it in 1882. It is not difficult to imagine an old member of that time heartily endorsing the opinion of *The Times of India* on the first day's racing at

Mahaluxmee in 1883. "The attendance, it said, was not so large as might have been expected. The Grand Stand and enclosure were far from crowded, and there was only a moderately large gathering outside these limits. This fact may probably be accounted for by the change in the location of the races, the present course not being so conveniently situated as the old course at Byculla. There were, however, a good number of carriages in the enclosures, including the drags of H.E. the Governor and H. E. the Commander-in-Chief, both of whom were present and took a great interest in the races. As far as the course itself is concerned, whatever may be its merits from a sporting point of view—and we are not prepared to deny that it has merits—there can be no denying that it is not a thing of beauty. The Byculla flats consisting as they do of a wide dreary expanse of marshy land, covered with water in the rainy season and exceedingly dusty in the dry season, have never a very lively appearance, and in spite of all the efforts of the stewards to make the place as pleasant as possible, one could not get rid of the fact that the races were held in a somewhat unpleasant locality." Time and the successive secretaries of the Western India Turf Club have wrought many changes in the appearance of the new race course and have made parts of the grounds at any rate things of beauty. The character of the racing too has changed, and the G. R. has practically disappeared. Mr. W. L. Souter tells the author that he remembers seeing Col. Oliver Probyn, then D.S.P. Khandesh, riding a race. Colonel Probyn had lost an arm and some fingers of the other hand, but in

spite of that was a mighty hunter and rider. Other gentlemen riders whom Mr. Souter recalls are Colonel (then Captain) Stack of the 33rd Cavalry, General Sir Edward (then Captain) Locke Elliot, Captain Conran, and "lesser lights a few years later like Puncher Woolmer, of the Durhams, Harvey Welman (Bombay Infantry) and Jack Hanwell, R.A." With the Byculla Club there remain as reminders of bygone days the old weighing room and a small stand, now picturesque features of the garden. The weighing room possibly took the place of the curious little building which appears in the illustration of the "Byculla Turf" hanging on the walls of Bobbery Hall, as depicted by Rowlandson in "The Adventures of Qui Hi". It is that illustration which has provided the basis of the Club crest. The small stand, to which reference has just been made, is traditionally said to have been erected by H. H. the Aga Khan. There is one other incident to be recorded in showing the connexion between the Byculla Club and racing in Bombay. About 1894 an attempt was made to make a small course in the Club compound, the leading spirit in the movement being the late Charlie Beatty who at that time had some racing ponies. Two meetings were held, the races being closed, before the course with its fearsome corners was abandoned.



THE OLD WEIGHING ROOM AND AGHA KHAN'S STAND.

WINNERS OF THE BYCULLA CLUB CUP.

Year.	OWNER.	Description.	Winner.	Weight. st. lbs.	Jockey.	Distance.	Time. m. secs.	Starters.
1893	Messrs. Macquoid and Stewart	b a g	Puddumjee	10 6	Capt. Woolmer	1 Mile	1 55	7
1894	Mr. Lansark	b a g	St. Paul	9 4	Robinson	1 Mile	1 55	2
1895	Capt. Hon. H. Addington.	b a g	Sultan	10 10	Mr. Price	1 Mile	1 56 2-5	7
1896	Mr. F. C. Allen	b aus g	Forest Lodge II	11 8	Mr. Locke	1 Mile	1 55	8
1897	Mr. F. C. Allen	b aus g	Forest Lodge II	10 11	W. O.	1 Mile	.. .. .	..
1899	Lt.-Col. J. Monteith	b aus m	Nancy	9 6	D. Greenhalgh	1 Mile	1 51 1/4	3
1900	H. H. Maharaja of Jodhpore	br am h	Brave Himyar	9 1	Southall	1 1/2 Miles	2 44 2-5	5
1901	Mr. K. R. S.	b aus g	Cherry	9 11	Robinson	1 1/4 Miles	2 12	8
1902	H. H. Kour Sahib of Patiala	ch aus m	Loch Clieveden	8 2	Cowell	1 1/2 Miles	2 11 4-5	8
1903	Mr. J. C. Galstaun	b aus g	Hoop Iron	7 10	Thomas	1 Mile 5 Fur.	2 52 4-5	11
1904	H. H. Aga Khan and Aga S. Shah	b aus m	Allie	7 3	Kamad	1 Mile 5 Fur.	2 56	9
1905	Col. J. Desraj Urs	b aus g	Trenton	7 13	Evans	1 Mile 5 Fur.	2 55	12
1906	Mr. E. J. Marshall	b aus g	Kipling	7 2	Vining	1 Mile 5 Fur.	2 51 11	11
1907	Hon. Mr. A. A. Apcar	bl aus g	Ballark	9 7	Vining	1 Mile 5 Fur.	2 51 1-5	8
1908	Hon. Mr. A. A. Apcar	bl aus g	Ballark	9 5	Blades	1 Mile 5 Fur.	2 51 4-5	11
1909	Mr. Jiji	br e g	Pelargonium II	8 13	Rickaby	1 Mile 5 Fur.	2 54 4-5	11
1910	H. H. Maharaja of Mysore	ch aus g	Sporran	6 9	Melson	1 Mile 5 Fur.	2 53 2-5	8
1911	Mr. M. Goeldass	b aus g	Master Delaval	9 7	A. Hoyt	1 Mile 5 Fur.	2 54 3-5	8
1912	Mr. Kelso	br e m	Hilarity	9 12	Brown	1 Mile 5 Fur.	2 50 4-5	9
1913	Mr. Kelso	b e m	Beckmesser	9 3	Brown	1 Mile 5 Fur.	2 52	13
1914	Mr. M. Goeldass	br e m	Pretty Good Sort	7 3	Purtoosingh	1 1/2 Miles	2 36 2-5	8
1915	Mr. M. Goeldass	br e g	First Call II	7 7	A. Hoyt	1 1/4 Miles	2 36 1/4	12
1916	Mr. R. R. S.	b e r	Magyar	9 4	F. Templeman	1 1/2 Miles.	2 34 3-5	16

CHAPTER VII.

THE COMPOUND AND GARDEN.

THE gradual acquisition of the Club compound is not easily to be traced in the Minute Books, and some of the entries referring to it are sadly lacking in topographical detail. For instance, it was resolved in 1844 "that the Trustees be authorised and requested to sign the counterpart of the lease of the additional ground taken by the Club." A year earlier it was resolved that the outhouses be continued to the bridge in the north-west corner. What bridge? A similar mystery appears in 1856 when it was determined "that immediate steps be taken to fill up the hole on the spot of ground belonging to Antone, adjoining the Club ground which is a great nuisance to the resident members." A more lucid entry, in 1855, shows that Rs. 4,516-5-0 was "the original amount of the purchase money of the vacant spot of ground in front of the portico of the Club, which sum at the time of the sale of the ground in question was borrowed from the Agra Bank and has remained a debt due to that institution ever since."

Failing any information to be obtained from the Minute Books one has to fall back on the title-deeds of the Club property. They show that in 1835 the Club leased from Muncherjee Framjee Settnah* two

* Muncherjee Framjee Settnah (1800-1879) was an extensive landed proprietor, owning land in Byculla, on Malabar Hill, and in other parts of Bombay. He belonged to the well-known Sett or Sethna family, to whom belonged Naoroji Hill, Mazagaon, before it was acquired by the Improvement Trust.



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IN THE CLUB GARDEN.

plots of land of 1,015 and 31,387 square yards respectively. On the smaller plot stood the race stand opposite the assembly room (the present reading room) and on the larger the Club buildings of that date. The deed of conveyance of the fee simple of those two plots to John Burrows, Secretary of the Club, for a consideration of Rs. 12,000 is dated 26th April 1841. Three years later the Club bought for Rs. 3,000 from Mr. Settnah 14,232 square yards, that is to say, the corner plot now bounded by Morland and Bellasis Roads, and reaching up to but not including the old race course. In the same year, 1844, the Club also leased for 99 years four strips of land west and north of the Club buildings, and including a small section of the race course, measuring in all 15,686 square yards. The next extension of the compound was in 1863 when a plot of 83,100 square yards was leased which brought the boundaries of the Club property to practically the present size though, as will presently be shown, they have been curtailed to suit the exigencies of municipal road developments. For the last-named plot and the four small strips previously acquired the rent was consolidated at Rs. 1,728-3-2 payable half-yearly. The minutes show that the Club, in thus adding to its property, hoped to get back about Rs. 300 per annum by subletting the land to cultivators. "The Committee have not at their disposal funds which would enable them to purchase this land absolutely and thought it more beneficial to the Club to pay a perpetual rent, than to raise the money required to purchase, by mortgage . . . nothing would have injured the Club so much as having this particular

land occupied by a mill or a tannery." So long as the old race course was maintained no attempt was made to develop the greater part of the compound in any way. It was let to cultivators who grew rice, and incidentally mosquitoes, while the race course and part of the compound east of the Club were cut off from the rest of the grounds by a hedge which ran immediately in front of the reading room verandah. After the removal of the race course, and with the awakening of what it is now fashionable to call a sanitary conscience, the improvement of the low-lying and undrained compound to the north and west of the Club became an increasingly urgent problem. The laying down of new roads just outside the boundaries of the property accentuated that problem, for the roads, being raised, became a series of surrounding watersheds. Thus in 1891 the Club made over to the municipality two strips of land forming part of the sites for new roads, that on the west being a continuation of Gilder Street (the Club subsequently sold another strip for widening this road, now known as Lamington Road) and that on the north being called Club road. Morland Road, to the east of the Club, was constructed in 1893 along the line across the race course formerly marked by an open and odoriferous drain.

The compound therefore had by the early 'nineties* become definitely enclosed, and, as buildings were erected in increasing numbers in the neighbourhood, the need for making the most of a very fine open space became more and more apparent to its owners.

* One Sunday morning in 1893 a man was killed in the Club compound, during the Hindu-Mahomedan riots, in sight of members in their bedrooms.

From about 1895 onward schemes were put forward for levelling the compound, one plan of that date being for the creation of a polo ground measuring 160 by 180 yards. A few years later a polo ground 280 by 180 yards was proposed, when it was urged that the draining of the land would improve the sanitary conditions and that members would be attracted by the increased facilities for sport thus provided. The loss of grazing would be only partial, and the loss of shooting negligible as in any case the ground was too small for that purpose. The polo scheme, however, did not find favour; and though something was done towards raising the level of the ground it was not until 1914-15 that the work was seriously taken in hand. In those years the ground was levelled and drained, and an excellent cricket ground made under the supervision of Mr. R. Todd and Mr. Rose. The result was that the Club not only acquired facilities for more games and a vastly improved outlook, but the mosquito nuisance was almost eliminated. Nor was the Club financially a loser by these works of development, for it has been found possible without any inconvenience to the members to let strips of land on the eastern edge of the compound to various horse-dealers, and a small plot in the extreme north-west corner to the Western India Turf Club for the erection of their new offices.*

The garden has become in recent years as distinctive a feature of the Club as in the past was the race

* A stampede of young Australian horses from one of the leased enclosures in the compound led in the Spring of 1916 to disastrous results. The newly dug foundations of the Turf Club offices proved a death trap in which eight horses were either killed or so severely injured as to make it necessary to shoot them.

course. Even those members who can claim no knowledge of, or interest in, gardening must often have been amazed at the glories of this oasis whether revealed to them in the fantastic form of an orchid in one of the houses, in a hedge of hibiscus, or in that great wealth of colour that atones for the heat of May when gold mohur, laburnum, cassias, and peltophorum are vieing with each other in glory. Here too are opportunities for watching the birds of Bombay that are not easily to be obtained elsewhere. For a list of those birds the naturalist may turn to the City Gazetteer ; in the Club garden at one time or another he will probably see most of the species represented. The unscientific observer will see, and will rejoice at the sight of, hoopœs, orioles, blue jays, bul-buls, Indian robins, and many other birds of a beauty or brilliance that can never cease to be amazing. To the understanding eye the garden is far more than a splash of oriental colouring in a shabby neighbourhood. It is an assembly also of rare and curious trees and plants, for the following account of which the author has to thank Mr. W. S. Millard.

The garden has for many years been the recipient of loving attention from different residents of the Club. The late Sir James Campbell devoted much time and care to its welfare, and after he left Bombay Mr. Yorke Smith was in charge until about 1901 when Mr. H. V. Kemball came to Bombay. To Mr. Kemball the Club is indebted, as indeed all Bombay is indebted, for many new plants introduced. Some of them have died but a large number fortunately still survive. Mr. Kemball visited Calcutta, Penang,



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ATTALEA COHUSE AND ITS FRUIT IN 1915.

Singapore, Buitenzorg (Java), and Peradeniya (Ceylon), and brought back from all these places a large number of rare and beautiful trees and shrubs. Amongst those that have survived, the first to call attention to, perhaps, should be the large and graceful palm which is growing on the south side of the entrance porch to the Club. This palm, which comes from Honduras and is named *Attalea cohune*, was planted by Mr. Kemball about 1902 and flowered in 1915. This tree is now about 30 feet in height. Another conspicuous tree in the garden is the large leaved *Coccoloba macrophylla* from the West Indies with its enormous leaves like elephant ears. The Black Bamboo, which is indigenous to India, was introduced by Sir James Campbell, who also left valuable notes as to the future care of the garden. The beautiful flowering tree *Jacaranda mimosafolia* with its fine feathery foliage and blue flowers comes from Brazil and is a delight to the eye when in full flower in March. Mr. Kemball also introduced the pink flowering *Lagerstræmia loudoni*, which is a dwarf variety of the purple flowered *L. flos regina* of which there are several examples in the garden; the pink flowered *Dombeya*; *Cassia nodosa* with its bright pink flowers like apple blossom; and *Cassia marginata* with its terra-cotta coloured flowers in May and June. *Cassia renigera*, whose pale pink glory is such a marvellous sight in May when the whole tree is covered with blossom, was introduced into Bombay by the late Mr. R. A. Forbes-Sempill who sent three plants to Bombay from Rangoon, of which one was planted in the Byculla Club garden about 1901. Another large shrub or small tree which deserves

mention is *Brownea grandiceps*, a native of South America, with its large bunches of crimson flowers borne from the stem during the months of March and April. Also the different specimens of *Guaiacum officinale* (*Lignum vitæ*) from the West Indies, which are in different parts of the garden. These trees are small and compact and in spring are covered with blue flower which on fading turn white so that the trees look almost as if they were laden with snow. Amongst the more noticeable flowering shrubs may be mentioned the *Francisceas* or *Brumfelsias* from South America, some with purple flowers which turn white and others with large yellow flowers and all sweetly fragrant, and the scarlet flowered *Quassia amara* which also comes from South America. The handsome palms *Pritchardia grandis* with their enormous fan leaves, which are moved into the ball room at the annual ball, were also introduced by Mr. Kemball: and it would be an omission to forget the ferns, orchids, and different varieties of *Hibiscus* for which he is responsible.

Mr. F. Harrison has since Mr. Kemball's departure carried on the good work of looking after the garden, and the members of the Byculla Club may well be proud of the fact that their garden contains so many beautiful and interesting trees and shrubs.

CHAPTER VIII.

STRANGERS WITHIN OUR GATES.

IT is only natural that, according to the fashion of the time, the Club did not in its early days welcome strangers*. But there were early indications of a revolt against this intolerance. The rule was more than once broken and in 1842 the Committee considered it advisable to reinstitute the following rule :—
“None but members or honorary members can be admitted into the Club or participate in the privilege of it in any way.” Four years later a special general meeting was called by the requisition of 13 members and the following proposition was advanced :—“The admission of guests under certain restrictions being allowed at the Oriental Club and several other clubs in England and members of this Club feeling that it would be very desirable to be allowed to ask guests who are not members, that they may be enabled to return civilities they may receive, propose to discuss at the meeting the propriety of introducing such guests from the day preceding the first day of the races until the day following the last day of the meeting, during which time any member should be

* Mr. Ralph Nevill in “London Clubs” writes that in old days strangers “were usually treated like the members’ dogs—they might be left in the hall under proper restraint, but access to any other part of the house, except, perhaps some cheerless apartment kept as a strangers’ dining room, was forbidden.” The Guards’ Club still excludes strangers. The Carlton does not allow them to go beyond the great hall. Several London Clubs have special dining rooms for guests.

allowed to introduce guests not exceeding two in number to dine with him upon his giving one day's previous notice to the Stewards of the Club." A motion to that effect was put and an amendment was moved "that it is inexpedient to alter the present rule of the Club in this particular." Votes in favour of the amendment, 14 : against, 13.

The Minute Book records that in 1850 one member on two occasions brought strangers into the Club and insisted upon having "brandy and soda-water" for them, and the Committee proposed to expel him for "so marked a determination on his part to disregard the rules of the Club" and for conduct "so unbecoming and derogatory in itself and so calculated to disturb the harmony and good order of the institution." The offending member, however, was penitent and forgiven after the Chairman had "addressed a few observations" to him. It is sad to relate that this member was expelled a few weeks later for having "entered the Club in a state of intoxication and conducted himself in an ungentlemanly manner," his downfall being no doubt due to the evil communications of strangers.

An exception to the general rule was made in 1851, as will be seen from the following extract from *The Bombay Times* of January 24, of that year :—

"A meeting of the members of the Byculla Club was held yesterday in the Library of the Club House, for the purpose of considering whether the rule respecting the exclusion of strangers should not be suspended, or infringed upon, for the special purpose of welcoming Sir Charles Napier, and of admitting

non-members to the Dinner proposed to be offered to him by the public of Bombay.

“ Sir Erskine Perry took the Chair amidst a goodly and imposing assemblage of the members. After some deliberation and discussion it was proposed and carried unanimously that the members of the Byculla Club grant the use of their premises and establishment for the purpose of entertaining Sir Charles Napier, coupled with this condition, that all those whose names were inscribed on the subscription list already published in the papers as having been sent in up to the time of the meeting at the Town Hall should have the privilege of attending the Dinner, as, in justice to the members of the Club at Poona and outstations, it was necessary to reserve sufficient space to accommodate them, the names already inscribed being 78, and the accommodations which the Club Dining Room and establishment afford for dining purposes not being equal to dine more than 80 people.

“ Sir William Yardley, Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court of Bombay, has, we are happy to announce, consented to take the Chair on the occasion.”

It was not until 1854 that the introduction of guests was legalised, and even then care was taken to see that members exercised due discretion in their choice of friends. The new rules included the following :—

“ It shall be competent to the Committee from time to time to refuse the admission of persons not fitted to be admitted as guests or who have misconducted themselves as such.

“It shall be competent for the Committee from time to time, by a written order to the Steward, to refuse the right of introducing guests to any member in arrears to the Club or who shall have refused to conform to these rules, or have introduced improper persons or otherwise have abused the privilege of introducing guests.”

That these rules were not superfluous, and that the Committee occasionally sat in judgment on members' friends may be seen from the fact that the Committee, having discovered in the Guest Book * the name of the Collector of the Municipal Fund, requested the member responsible to “refrain from introducing as guests those who he must be well aware are not in the social position † of members of the Club.” But such cases seem to have been rare and the half-yearly report presented in January 1855, says: “The number of guests who have visited the Club during the last half-year amounts to 234. The system of admitting guests has hitherto answered very well. It also explains how the arrears for the present year happen to be so large.”

The year 1854, besides being notable for the change just recorded, appears to have been marked by various efforts to make the Club more attractive. In August of that year it was determined to build a new range of sleeping rooms and for that purpose to raise Rs. 30,000, Mr. Henry Liddell, of the Civil Service, lending that amount at 6 per cent. The

* The Visitors' Book, instituted in 1854, has now fallen into disuse. The custom in Bombay survives only at the Bombay Club.

† In 1873 objection was taken to the fact that a tailor was introduced into the Club as a guest by a member of the Bengal Club temporarily residing in the Byculla Club.

rooms were ready for occupation about twelve months later, and their construction might be looked upon as nothing more than a natural development of a prosperous club were it not for the fact that it seems to have inspired a revolutionary proposal. It may be remarked that the early history of the Club often furnished the local Press with "copy." Club affairs were not then regarded, as they now are, as in any sense private, but were discussed in the most open way for the edification of the public. There was nothing unusual therefore in the fact that on August 17, 1854, *The Bombay Times*—of which Dr. Buist was then Editor—published the following leading article on the subject of Club accommodation:—

"A very sensible suggestion has been made to us by a correspondent: and we commend it to the favourable consideration of our readers. It is to extend the functions and usefulness of the Byculla Club by erecting in connection with it a series of Bungalows or of buildings containing suites of Chambers, for the accommodation of the families of the married members of the Club. And our correspondent calculates that the Club Committee might safely reckon on securing continuous tenancy to twenty such suites of chambers, at rents varying according to the quantity and quality of the accommodation from thirty to one hundred rupees per mensem. During certain seasons of the year, the demand for the Club's "family accommodation" would be such that in justice to the Mofussil members it would be necessary to limit the tenancy as is now done, in respect of Bachelor Residents, and peremptorily to deny accommodation to any but outstation families. At

other seasons again, there would be no occasion to insist on such limitations : and, on their removal, the Bombayites would, it is assumed, eagerly avail themselves of the vacant domiciles. This is no proposal to feminise the Club, to convert the "Byculla" into a sort of "Whittington." The buildings devoted to the family accommodation of the members of the Club, need not be placed in greater proximity to the existing structures than that now occupied by the neighbouring bungalows. The introduction of ladies into the Club would still remain under the restrictions at present in force and the advantages be numerous. Amongst these our correspondent reckons the following :—

"1st.—The rental of the new accommodation, besides paying the interest on the cost of erection, and covering the expense of annual repairs, etc., would be a source of revenue to the Club.

"2nd.—The Club profits on the viands and potables consumed would very much more than cover any additional cost in servants, office establishment, etc., which the scheme might involve, and thus enhance the Club's revenues.

"3rd.—By providing such accommodation, the Club would draw to itself the married members visiting the Presidency, five-sixths of whom never, or very rarely, frequent the Club from being compelled to reside at a distance with their families, and by thus increasing the numbers of the Club's frequenters, the proposed arrangement would increase its social attractions.

"4th.—By providing such accommodation, the Club would induce numbers of married men who have

either not joined or have ceased to belong to the Club, to seek admission or re-admission to membership.

“ 5th.—The increased importance and popularity thus given to the Club would tend to induce greater numbers of the Civil and Military Servants of Government to join, than now evince a desire to become members.

“ Such are the advantages which, according to our correspondent, would result to the Club itself, from the adoption of his suggestion. And they appear to us incontestible. As regards the benefit which such a scheme would confer on the married Mofussilites, no doubt can be entertained. Under proper arrangements an officer might maintain himself and his family, under the Club’s auspices, in a comfortable and comparatively elegant style, for thirty per cent. less than the sum which he is now compelled to pay for a higgledy piggledy, hugger mugger, sort of existence under canvas on the Esplanade ; where he is persecuted into many a breach of the peace, and into the utterance of much language which, it is to be hoped, the recording Angel blots out with her tears, by the irruptions of Borahs and other riff-raff—besides being subjected to a variety of nuisances Auditory and Olfactory, Predatory and Precatory—Canine and Bovine, Entomological and Ombrological,—Thermometric, Hygrometric and Anemometric. And there are five months in the year during which the Benedictine Mofussilite has not even the option of an uncomfortable canvas dwelling. During these he must either take up his abode in hot, uncomfortable and miasm-enveloped Barracks—in unpleasant proximity to noisy, boisterous bachelors from out-

stations—spreeing it on principle, while detained at the Presidency on “urgent private,” or Court Martial business—or he must “sponge” on a friend—or he must partake of the expensive hospitality of our Hotel-keepers.* From these necessities he would fain be delivered. From these the Club could easily deliver him. His deliverance would prove a direct benefit to the Club. And indirectly it would confer on it advantages not easily computed. For it would tend to remove the impression which unfortunately prevails in the Mofussil, and which deters many officers from joining the Club, *viz.*, that the Institution is a “Presidency Job”—maintained exclusively for the convenience of ourselves—and to which the Mofussil claimant of a bed-room is more frequently than not the reverse of welcome. Nor are those which we have glanced at the only advantages which our correspondent anticipates from the

* Dr. Buist’s “Guide to Bombay” published in 1854, says :—“There are two good hotels in the Fort, the British, Mr. Barnes’, and the English kept by a Parsee firm. The Hope Hall, the principal hotel of the Presidency, is about three miles from the Fort.”

As to hotel charges, the Bombay Calendar for 1846 gives an advertisement of the Hope Hall Family Hotel (Mazagon) with the following terms of boarding.

Board and lodging for one person occupying one room and taking meals at the Table d’Hote—

Per month	..	..	Rs.	130
Fortnight	..	..	„	75
Day	..	..	„	6

Reduced Charges for families—

		Old	New
		Charge.	Charge.
Lady and Gentleman	Table d’Hote, for month	.. 260	220
..	..	.. 150	110
..	Private for month	.. 320	260
..	.. fortnight	.. 170	150

adoption of his scheme. He augurs a vast improvement in the "social aspects" of our Presidency. He conceives that the material contact into which the scheme would bring the Pagans of the Mofussil with the more civilised dwellers in Bombay would tend to unite them in social intercommunion: to create more cordial feelings than now exist: and to remove many of those little jealousies, and misconceptions which now result in the "Moffs" returning to their Jungles, eloquent in denunciation of the "uppishness," "conceit", "pride", "inhospitality," etc., of the "Cockneys,"—and in the said "Cockneys" turning up their noses at the "Moffs", and thanking God that they are not as these men. He proceeds to argue that by making the Club more attractive "as a central point of social reunion", we shall adopt the most eligible and efficient means of correcting the state of social disorganisation into which we are said to have fallen, and of preventing a recurrence of similar lamentable conditions. The consideration of these ulterior objects may, we think, be safely postponed until the more direct bearings of the scheme be deliberated on. And we conceive the scheme to be at least worthy the consideration of the Club and the public: of the Club as to whether it is prepared to carry out the proposed arrangement: of the public whether, in the event of the Club declining to do so, the scheme does not hold out a form of investment at once beneficial to the community and the shareholders.

"I am aware," writes our correspondent—"that Dr. Downes once proposed such a scheme on a small scale—but to give it a fair chance it must be carried

out on a larger one—providing accommodation for not less than twenty families.”

The reference in the last sentence of the foregoing article is apparently to a scheme put forward in 1850. The Committee in that year “deemed it expedient to purchase the piece of ground adjoining the Club, the property of the late S. Boyd, Esq., for which the sum of Rs. 4,500 has been paid upon the security of the members of the committee. The committee think it would be very advisable for the adoption of a plan for building six or eight bungalows upon this ground, to be permanently occupied by members of the Club.” In July 1851 the Committee were authorised to “enter in arrangement for the erection of Bungalows upon the ground purchased from the executors of the late S. Boyd, Esq., for the accommodation of members.” There is, however, no record of why this building scheme was abandoned. A similar project—to build two or more small detached houses within the Club grounds for the use of members—was rejected in 1879.

If the Club was slow to encourage the admittance of private guests it was quick to make special arrangements for the Navy or the Army : and this is not to be wondered at, for, apart from those reasons which should naturally influence the Club in such cases, it was, as has already been shown, for some time very largely military in its composition. Thus in the Mutiny year the Club was able to give Bombay a much needed lead in welcoming the 33rd Regiment which had hurriedly been sent up from Mauritius. *The Bombay Times* (August 15, 1857) was very scathing on the lack of public

spirit shown by Bombay on that occasion. It said :—

“ Bombay is greatly wanting in public spirit, that it does not notice the presence of H. M.’s 33rd Regiment by some public banquet or entertainment. Surely the heroes of the Alma, Inkermann and Sebastopol—the regiment that bears on its colours the proud escutcheon of the great Duke of Wellington—ought to be welcomed in a manner becoming the wealth and hospitality of the merchant princes of Bombay. If the head of the Government, or the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, choose to pass them by unnoticed, let it not be said that the European inhabitants of this great city look upon them with the same indifference. We allude to the matter only to exhibit the cold treatment shown to this gallant corps, from its arrival in Bombay up to the present time. Although the fact of their advent in the harbour was made patent through an extra published by one of the daily journals, nothing like a recognition awaited the regiment on its landing at the Apollo Pier. No kind of demonstration was got up on the occasion not even a band being sent out to play them into the town, as is usual on such occasions. The regimental band being left on board, the men marched in silence through the streets and on coming to their quarters found nothing prepared for their reception. The officers were treated with even greater neglect, and instead of being invited to the messes of the different regiments on the island, they were obliged, from the absence of any accommodation in the Town Barracks to repair to the British Hotel, where they lodged for the night. All this

indifference was shown at the very time when their presence was considered necessary to the public salvation and relieved the uneasy feeling of dread which pervaded the town at the prospect of a social revolution. The regiment being ordered unexpectedly to Bombay, the officers were not armed with letters of introduction, to facilitate their entry into general society and therefore came amongst us as perfect strangers. This would have been enough at any other place to secure them a hearty greeting from their countrymen and brother officers: but in Bombay, the cold shade of officialism deadens our better feelings, and chills the generous spirit which, animates Britons throughout the rest of the world. We cry shame upon our local gentry, who had no sympathy for the brave warriors of Britain, and did not hold out to them the right hand of fellowship. At the Mauritius, their reception was very different, and their stay on that island will form a pleasing reminiscence amid the dull routine of Indian camp life. During their residence at Port Louis, the colonists vied with one another in regaling the officers at their houses and the inhabitants fraternised with the men in a most cordial manner. The Anglo-French islanders knew how to welcome their heroes who stormed the heights of Alma, beat back the Russian hosts at Inkermann, and won immortal renown on the blood-stained ramparts of the Redan. We hope that the public of Bombay will arouse from their lethargy, and take some steps to wipe out the reproach of their apathy and indifference.

“Since the above was written, we have learned that the members of the Byculla Club intend to invite

the officers of the 33rd Regiment, and those of the Royal Artillery, to a dinner at the Club House on Tuesday next the 18th instant, at eight o'clock in the evening. It also appears that, immediately on their arrival they received invitations to become honorary members of the Byculla and Indian Navy Clubs. This reflects great credit upon the gentlemen belonging to these societies, who have spontaneously determined to give the gallant officers a reception worthy of the distinguished corps to which they belong."

The dinner took place and was distinguished by a toast list of the most formidable proportions. "The Hon. A. Malet occupied the chair and the dinner was attended by the principal military officers and civil servants in Bombay. All the officers of the 33rd and Royal Artillery, among whom were Colonels Johnstone and Collings, Major Quayle, etc., had been invited, and attended on that occasion. After dinner, the following toasts were given and drunk with great enthusiasm."

Airs.

1. The Queen God Save the Queen.
2. The Governor-General March.
3. The Guests Partant pour la Syrie.
4. The Governor of Bombay Blue Bonnets.
5. The Army and Navy. Rule Britannia and British Grenadiers.
6. General Havelock .. See the Conquering Hero comes.
7. The Governor of the Mauritius Green grows the Rushes
O!

Airs.

8. The Civil Service .. Money in both pockets.
 9. The Chairman .. Auld Lang Syne.
 10. The Ladies Here's a health to all good
 lasses.

Apart from being admitted to the Club for balls and race lunches, ladies have only recently been encouraged to come to the Club. When the late Mr. Justice Russell gallantly proposed, in 1890, that the public rooms of the Club might be used for the purpose of a ladies' dinner, concert, or similar entertainment on the requisition of not less than thirty members, only three members could be found to vote for the proposal. As George Augustus Sala wisely said "A Club is a weapon used by savages to keep the white woman at a distance," and it was a Bishop who defined the ideal club as a place "where women cease from troubling and the weary are at rest." With periodical lapses from that ideal the Byculla Club has pursued its way and it has not been greatly affected by the motion, passed in 1911, "that it shall be left to the Committee to permit such number of ladies' dinner nights, not exceeding four in the month, under such conditions as they think fit."

In 1857 a member (Dr. Herbert Giraud) introduced a Parsi, Dr. Rustomjee Byramjee, to dinner, and, as several members questioned the propriety of such a proceeding, the Hon. Secretary asked the Committee for their opinion. A subsequent letter to the offending member assumed that he "would not knowingly have introduced a guest to the Club whose presence might in any way prove disagreeable to the members." In the course of his reply Dr. Giraud wrote:—"If

this Club is an institution intended for European gentlemen only, I can understand the reason and propriety of excluding Dr. Rustomjee as a visitor : but until this is expressed in the Club Rules, I must consider myself at liberty to introduce him." In reply to that letter the Committee stated that persons in native dress never had been admitted to dine at the Club, and that "the Committee of Management would ill discharge the trust reposed in them, if they suffered the convenience and social intercourse, of even a small minority of its members, to be endangered and chilled by innovation without taking steps to guard against its repetition." The matter subsequently came before a general meeting, when, after some discussion, it was resolved "that there being no rule to guide Dr. Giraud as to the introduction of Dr. Byramjee, he was justified in bringing him to the Club as his guest : and the Committee acted properly in objecting to his having been so introduced when objected to by members." This somewhat evasive resolution did not satisfy all the members, and Col. le G. Jacob wrote to the Committee suggesting a rule which, without drawing a racial or colour line, would exclude guests not "European in manner, habits, and ideas." The Committee, however, refused to see any reason for introducing such a rule, adding "that when a guest was objected to, the Committee could not be expected to go into considerations of whether the objections to him arose from the cut of his hat, the absence of gloves, or the want of polish on his boots. Their duty was to prevent so far as possible the elements of discord entering into the Club and prevent the introduction of

anyone who was likely to cause such by his presence.”

Other cases of a similar kind occurred from time to time, the most notable being in 1907, when H. M. the Amir of Afghanistan was entertained in the Club by a member. The incident gave rise to a good deal of discussion, and a proposal—by Mr. Yorke-Smith seconded by Mr. Lowndes—“that in the opinion of the meeting no Asiatic should be entertained in the Club without the previous sanction of the Committee” was carried at a general meeting. An amendment proposing “to embody in the form of a Club rule what up to the present time has been an unwritten rule, *viz.*,—that Asiatics should not be introduced into the Club,” was at the same time rejected.

Closely connected with this question of guests is that of honorary members who are admitted on conditions laid down in the rules. In the days when hotel accommodation was bad or primitive the privilege of honorary membership was much sought after and not easily obtained. It was about 1880 that E. B. Eastwick, the author of Murray’s Hand-book for Bombay, wrote of the Club as if it were the proverbial sour grapes :—“The best way of locating oneself on arrival at Bombay is to obtain admission as an honorary member of the Byculla Club which is however inconveniently situated, very exclusive and subject to disagreeable odours from the Flats, as the low ground round it is called. The Bombay Club is in a very convenient locality, close to the public buildings, and in a better atmosphere ; the cuisine is also excellent.”

Exchange of membership with the Bengal, Madras and Sindh Clubs has been long established and much valued. The system of exchange with the Club of Western India, Poona, is of recent institution.

As is shown elsewhere in this book, the Club has always been ready to receive officers of the Navy and Army as guests ; and they have never been so welcome or such frequent visitors as during the war, when the constant passage of troops and wounded through Bombay gave exceptional opportunities for the use of the Club. And perhaps the strangest incident in the history of the Club is the conversion of the bed-rooms into a military hospital for officers. The institution of this hospital, under the charge of Dr. S. A. Powell helped for a time by Dr. J. H. Walsh, has been the most notable assistance offered by the Club during the war. Up to November, 1916, over 400 officers had passed through the hospital.

CHAPTER IX.

A DISSERTATION ON FOOD.

THE Club has always enjoyed the reputation for supplying good food, and, though it is now said to have fallen from grace in that respect, the records show that the food, like *Punch*, has never been so good as it was. The Complaint Book for 1874*, the earliest in existence, has the following entry: "It is one of the dearest and worst managed clubs in existence." With which opinion may be compared that of one of the oldest present members who writes:—"When I first came to Bombay in the 'seventies and commenced life there by a sojourn at the Club, the Byculla was *par excellence* the place to dine. In those days it rejoiced in a *chef* of the name of Caitan, who was quite an artist in his profession. A special dinner, to the preparation of which he had personally

* The book is not without humorous comments.

"On Friday, the 12th April (1878), *onesnipe*, the last of the season, was purchased at the expense of the Club. Shortly afterwards the Honorary Secretary was observed consuming the bird. Is this the way that the comforts of the Club are looked to or is the Honorary Secretary to be allowed to guzzle unchecked and unnoticed—Several Indignant Members."

Another pleasing entry, in 1876, is the complaint of Mr. Inverarity that "the gentleman in the bedroom beneath mine is a beginner on the flute—as he has shown no signs of improvement during the last two months, I request that his attention be called to the rule against making voluntary noises in the Club." There was a retort to this that the flautist was not a beginner, improvement was a matter of opinion, and—as for noises—one gentleman wore thick boots and "apparently at times dances a double shuffle them."

attended, was an event to warm the heart of the gourmet. At no London Club or restaurant could a better meal have been served. Alas, that *recherché* fare has long been a memory of the past! In those days, too, the Club cellar was not devoid of some excellent vintages. Amongst others there was a brand of champagne—a Roederer of which I cannot recall the year—of exceptional merit. It imprinted itself upon the memory of so critical a *bon-viveur* as the late Sergeant Ballantyne, who partook of it on the occasion of his visit to India to defend the then Gaekwar charged with an attempt to poison General Phayre, and who mentions it in his "Recollections." This reference to the Club wines reminds me of the changes which have taken place in the taste for drinks there. When I first came to India most men drank either claret or hock "cups" out of plated tankards. Some members were experts in their preparation. One of these—my dear old friend Charles Agnew Turner, still, thank God, alive—possessed the secret of a specially delicious Capri cup. Very thirst inspiring was it at late breakfast after a long Sunday morning ride to watch the preparations—the great chunks of ice, the aromatic lime juice, the green borage leaf, the orange juice, the liqueur, etc. I remember also how on hot May nights he and I used after dinner at the Club to drive to the Hornby Vellard, sit and chat there in such breeze as was to be obtained, and on our return split a pint of that wonderful Roederer with lots of crushed ice.

"*Autres temps, autres moeurs!* Nobody thinks of such a night-cap now, and perhaps they are better

without it, but it was very nice. In those times the present inevitable "whisky and soda" was almost unknown. The member who was responsible for its introduction was the late Mr. Thomas Ormiston, then a resident and popular member of the Club, who, in his capacity of Chief Engineer to the Port Trust, built the Prongs Light House and, I think, I am correct in saying, was the principal creator of the Prince's Dock. Anyway, as well as being a most competent engineer he was also a very competent judge of whiskies, and upon his suggestion the Committee imported an excellent brand which, while it lasted, was always known as Ormiston Whisky. Very fine stuff it was, mellow and mature, and of the colour of a topaz. It caught on at once; and of course since then the whisky and soda taste has continuously prevailed, although the quality of that particular brand which came from some unknown Scotch still has never since been equalled. Another long-drink which thirty-five years ago enjoyed a short spell of popularity at the Club was known as Goa Gin. It mixed remarkably well with "Polly" and was a nice clean, dry drink. Who was responsible for locating a store of old square bottle Hollands at Goa, I do not know, but evidently the supply was limited as it soon disappeared. When I drank it as a boy it was somehow associated in my mind with "Robinson Crusoe" and the "cases of cordial" which the Portuguese (or was it the Spanish?) captain brought to his island as a present in that delightful but unveracious classic. It is curious how the sense of association increases the enjoyment of drinking particular wines. For example, when one drinks a fine Hock, it recalls

recollections of wanderings amongst the castled, vine-clad hills of the Rhine, or as one sips a generous Burgundy memories recur of joyous days in sunny France. But I am wandering from my subject, and I don't think I can recall anything else particular about the Club cellar. I wish it were as good now as it used to be. The late Adair Craigie took some meritorious interest in the matter, and arranged to import two excellent red wines—a Pomard and a Chateau Giscours—but since his regretted death they seem to have disappeared. Like so many of the lesser London Clubs, the Club now seems content to depend mainly upon the local wine-merchants, instead of having some specialities of its own as a club with its traditions ought to do. I hope compliance with your request to contribute these brief reminiscences will not be taken to imply the corollary that I am specially addicted to the flowing bowl! As a matter of fact I cultivate the simple life, and there are few more abstemious members. But it is a poor heart which never rejoices!”

As a sample of the early scale of living and charges, there may be cited the following from the year 1843 :—

Rs. a. p.

Beefsteak, veal or fowl cutlets, or mutton chops, vegetable, cheese, bread and butter, pickles	.. .. .	..	0	12	0
Oyster sauce	.. .. .	..	0	4	0
Beefsteak, etc., with soup	.. .. .	..	1	0	0
Do. do. with curry and rice			1	4	0

	Rs. a. p.
A plain dinner* off the daily joint, soup, curry, fish and one made dish, vegetable and cheese	1 4 0
All dinners or dishes ordered, to be charged for separately, but if twelve or more dine together the charge is not to exceed Rs. 3 a head, to include all the delicacies of the season.	
Cold tiffin and one vegetable	0 8 0
Hot dish and one vegetable	0 12 0
Hot breakfast	1 0 0
Tea, bread and butter and eggs	0 12 0

In 1853 the foregoing scale was subjected to considerable revision :—

Dinner at Re. 1-4-0, Soup, fish, joint of the day, one made dish of any description, rice and curry,

* It may not have been so cheap after all, for, a few months after the tariff was drawn up, the Committee resolved: "That Abboo be warned that, as such numerous complaints have been made of late against the dinners, on the recurrence of any more complaints he will be discharged and that the secretary be requested in the meantime to endeavour to get some other butler instead of Abboo."

Of many trusted servants of the Club in bygone days none seems better to deserve mention than a steward, Nasarwanji Fardoonji Grant to whom frequent references occur in the old minutes. Mr. R. P. Karkaria writes about that celebrity, who died in 1879: "It is said that he was so popular with the members that they presented him with a special gold medal on his retirement in 1856. When the medal arrived from England they sent it to E. Ravenscroft, Collector of Surat, his native place where he had retired, and it was presented to him by the Collector at a special durbar. This Nasarwanji Grant is said to derive his surname from a Grant who was Collector of Surat, and whose major domo he was at first. But I should rather think he was the major domo of a greater man than the Collector—of Sir John Peter Grant, the famous judge of the Supreme Court in 1827-29, and is the Nasarwanji Parsi whom the judge's daughter describes so vividly in her "Memoirs of a Highland Lady."

bread, butter, and cheese. No second course to be placed on the table unless ordered.

Dinner at One Rupee. Fish *or* Soup, joint of the day, one made dish of any description, rice and curry, bread, butter and cheese. No second course to be placed on the table unless ordered.

Two years later the rupee dinner was again altered—on this occasion to joint of the day, and any two of the following: soup, fish, one made dish, with bread, butter and cheese.

At some date in the 'fifties the Club began to follow Lord Clare's revolutionary practice and to keep a French cook, and a succession of those estimable people may have had something to do with various increases in the cost of living. Those who lament the good old days and the cheap rates of living are generally a trifle hazy as to the exact period to which they refer and may be somewhat surprised by the tariff in force in 1874:—

				Rs.	a.	p.
Round table dinner	..	..	..	2	8	0
Private table dinner	..	..	..	2	12	0
Plain dinner	..	..	..	2	0	0

Whether it is to French chefs or to the enterprise of private members—such as Adair Craigie, the inventor of “Craigie Toast” and “Craigie Vermouth”—that the Club is indebted for its more famous peculiarities of cuisine is a mystery the writer has been unable to probe. But, for the benefit of those who have eaten the fluffy delight, the recipe for the Byculla Soufflé may be disclosed. Take the yolks of six eggs, add three tablespoons of good white sugar, beat well till dry and keep aside. Take

half a seer of cream and also beat till dry, now take half a packet of Isinglass well soaked, add one liqueur glass each of Kummel, Chartreuse, Curacao, and Benedictine. Mix the whole well together, then put into a mould, on the top put crumbs of mixed biscuit and keep in ice until wanted. To cooks who attempt to make the Soufflé and fail, a word of consolation may be offered: it can only be made to perfection in the Club kitchen.

Equally famous are the Club cocktails, &c., of which both the size and the potency must always astonish those who are acquainted with the character of American cocktails. They are mixed in this way. *Byculla Cocktail*: two glasses of Milk Punch and one glass of Ginger Wine. Add a small quantity of Bitters and shake with crushed ice. *Byculla Club Cocktail*: One liqueur glass each of Noyeau, Ginger Brandy, and Water. Add Bitters and shake with crushed ice.

The fact that the Club possesses no silver must often have impressed the members. A robbery that took place in 1845 deprived the Club of some of its possessions, but the explanation is to be found in a resolution, passed by the Committee in 1863, "that as an addition is required to the table silver belonging to the Club, the weight of the silver at present at once be ascertained, and arrangements made for its sale and that a complete set of Elkington's plate, to match the dishes, etc., now expected from England, be ordered at once." Practically all the silver now in the possession of the Club is the two large bowls presented by Lord Harris, and a very handsome cup inscribed "To the memory of Christopher B. Lynch,

presented to the Club by his friends in the Club.”

The soul of the Secretary in early days must often have been harassed by the great ice problem. When the Club was founded it presumably followed the traditional custom of dressing bottles in wet petticoats, fancifully arranged round the necks. Port, claret, and burgundy were usually dressed in wetted cloths of crimson with white flounces, while sherry and madeira appeared in bridal white. Those were the days when a servant was essential to look after the cooling of water, but with the introduction of ice the *abdar's* importance began to wane ; and by the 'forties the ice age was fairly established. According to the Bombay City Gazetteer, the first consignment of ice was received from America by the firm of Jehangir Nasarwanji Wadia in September, 1834. The first Sir Jamsetji Jeejeebhoy was the pioneer in introducing the use of ice (then retailed at 4 annas per lb.) at dinner parties, but a few days after that bold experiment the *Bombay Samachar* reported that both Sir Jamsetji and his guests had caught very bad colds. Undeterred by that melancholy example, the Club played a leading part in encouraging the importation of ice, as may be seen from *The Bombay Times*, of 1839, which contains the following references to the subject :—“ We understand that Captain Ward of an American vessel, which has been lately in our Harbour, has agreed with the Members of the Byculla Club, to bring forty tons of ice for them, to this place, for which they are to pay Rs. 300 per ton (if in the Harbour, before the 10th of May, 1840). Captain Ward, we

believe, intends to bring out at the same time a much larger quantity on private speculation and declared before he left this, that if he was encouraged he would engage to give us a regular supply twice a year. The Society will be much indebted to the members of the Club, for their encouragement of this spirited undertaking, and we hope that measures may be arranged to give the public the full benefit of this important luxury."

"The Committee of the Byculla Club, in circulating the following memorandum, would beg to suggest, that a public meeting be held at some convenient place and on an early day, to take into consideration the best measures for rendering the ice, expected in the month of May next, generally available, and securing as regular a supply to this Presidency, as has been enjoyed for several years at Calcutta.

MEMORANDUM.

"It is generally known that the Committee of the Byculla Club have contracted with Capt. Ward to supply them with 40 tons of ice, on or before the 10th May next, at the rate of Rs. 500 per ton, which price is, however, to be proportionably reduced, should any delay in its arrival take place. On leaving this, Capt. Ward expressed his intention of making his whole importation 100 tons ; the Club have secured the refusal of the whole on the above terms. The Members of the Club would be happy to throw the whole open to the public in shares. A consumption of 4 lbs. per diem of ice would be 120 lbs. per mensem Experience has proved that the whole community

of Bombay consume about 30 tons in two months; the quantity expected would, therefore, on the same scale, last six months, and the shares might be fixed at 600 lbs. each, and this would allow about $3\frac{1}{2}$ shares. The total cost would be, at the rate specified, 30,000 Rs., which divided into shares, as above, would be Rs. 80 per share, for which a supply of 4 lbs. per diem would be obtained.

“ The Committee of the Byculla Club beg to notify to the Public, that they have contracted with Captain Ward of the United States Ship Waverley, for a supply of Ice to be landed, in Bombay, before the 20th May next. They will be happy to throw open a part of the supply to the Public, at the following rate. One share of 4lbs. per diem Rupees 100. The supply, barring waste, is calculated at this rate to last for upwards of four months, and the Club have the option of taking any quantity which Captain Ward may bring beyond his contract with them. Applications for shares to be made in writing to the Steward of the Byculla Club, distinctly stating the number of shares required. Half the amount of subscriptions to be paid on demand, and the remainder on the arrival of the Ice.”

Byculla Club House, 13th December 1839.

In the same year a movement was set on foot to build an ice house in Bombay, and in this also the Club seems to have taken a leading part for *The Bombay Times* of 1842 has the following note on the subject : “ In our advertising columns will be found an intimation of a meeting of a committee of management for the subscribers to the Ice House, to be held this afternoon at four o'clock. We have been given

to understand that the Byculla Club was likely to subscribe handsomely to this establishment, and that the liberal additions made to former subscriptions, now affords a favourable prospect of affairs being brought to an auspicious termination. It must at the same time be recollected, that no delay is permissible if it is desired that ice should be provided for the coming year. A considerable sum has yet to be set down before the subscription list will amount to the estimated cost of the Ice House ; and when this has been made up, the American shipper must be written to in time to permit his crossing the broad Atlantic with his most perishable cargo." The Club subscription to this laudable object, however, was not granted without some opposition. In March, 1844, a special general meeting rejected the motion "that the Committee be directed to give a donation of Rs. 500 to the Committee for building an Ice House." But in April—when the weather was warmer—a similar motion was carried unanimously.*

Smoking in the Club appears to have been permitted, with certain restrictions, from the earliest times. For the first ten years at least of the Club's existence

* The Bombay City Gazetteer (Vol III, p. 300) says that Rs. 10,000 were collected for the construction of an ice-house and that an arrangement was made with Mr. Tudor, of Boston, U.S.A.; for the despatch of regular consignments. Apparently Mr. Tudor did not find the business a paying one, and by 1857 great difficulty was experienced in finding ships to carry ice to Bombay. This led to the payment of very high freights, which, coupled with heavy landing charges at Bombay, put an almost complete check upon the importation of ice. In July 1877, for example, a memorial was presented to H. E. the Governor by a deputation of leading citizens, begging that the Bombay Government would "institute a searching inquiry into the cause of the ice-famine of 1876 and 1877, and would ensure a reliable and steady supply of that useful commodity." With the introduction of ice-manufacturing machines, the ice-house fell into disuse and is now used as a godown.

hookahs must have been commonly used by members and it is presumably from those days that the custom of handing round live charcoal has survived. "After dinner," wrote Col. Davidson in "Memories of a Long Life" apropos of a dinner in the Fort, "the hookaburdars slipped in, and each, having spread a handsome narrow Persian-rug behind his master's chair, prepared the chillum, blowing vigorously at the red-hot balls, and handed the chased silver mouth-piece of the snake-like tube to his master, when a general gurgling was heard that astonished unaccustomed ears." The luxury was not so costly as some may think, for against the hookaburdar's wages may be set the low price of tobacco. Messrs. Higgs and Briggs, of Medows Street, sold the best Bengal hooka tobacco at Rs. 15 per package of 21 lbs. and the same universal providers offered Manilla cheroots at Rs. 15 per 1,000.

In 1842 a rule was passed prohibiting smoking in the sitting rooms between 6 and 8 p.m. and subsequently this rule was more than once altered,† presumably owing to changes in the dinner hour. But it was only in comparatively recent times that smoking became generally tolerated. At a Committee meeting in 1855 there were "read letters from J. Kershaw, Esquire, and Dr. J. H. Sylvester complaining of the nuisance occasioned by members smoking at all hours of the day and night in the sleeping apartments.

"Resolved: That smoking in any part of the buildings or verandah of the sleeping apartments be

*The present bye-law on the subject is: "Smoking is not allowed in the dining room between the hours of 6-30 p.m and 9-15 p.m."

strictly forbidden and that a rule to this effect be incorporated in the rules of the sleeping rooms." This may appear drastic to the present generation, but Bombay was really more advanced in this respect than London. "The question of smoking," writes Mr. Ralph Nevill in his book on London Clubs, "has frequently caused great agitation in London Clubs. In 1866, for instance, White's, where cigars had not been allowed at all till 1845, was much perturbed concerning tobacco, some of the younger members wishing to be allowed to smoke in the drawing room, whilst the older ones bitterly opposed such a proposal The non-smoking party triumphed, and as an indirect result was founded the Marlborough Club, where, for the first time in the history of West End Clubland, smoking, except in the dining-room, was everywhere allowed." Another illustration of the general attitude towards smoking in the 'fifties is given by Douglas in 'Glimpses of Old Bombay' (p. 54). He quotes the following blast against tobacco from a Bombay paper of 1856: "Several young men light their cheroots as soon as the dark of evening is sufficient to prevent a full recognition of their persons and veil their impertinence. The Police ought to extinguish this nuisance at the bandstand."

In Calcutta smoking at the bandstand was not allowed, and the prejudice, if not the prohibition, survived for half a century. Rudyard Kipling in his "City of Dreadful night" (written in 1888) says that in Calcutta a friend told him not to smoke in the streets if he wanted to be respectable. "There is no Levee or Lieutenant-Governor in sight; but he wears

the frock-coat because it is daylight, and he can be seen. He refrains from smoking for the same reason."

Douglas—in the book just quoted—says he does not remember European cigarettes in Bombay much before 1870. Their introduction must have served to put an end to the habit of snuff-taking; but the Club ram's head snuff-box still survives. The original head, which was ordered from England in 1878 at the instance of James Thorburn of Forbes & Co., was a stuffed head with the wool on. This soon became mangy, and corrupted by moth and climate, so that its place had to be taken by a wooden head carved in Bombay. How little the snuff mull is used may be seen from the fact that the annual consumption of snuff has fallen from 29 jars in 1890 to four jars in 1915. The historian of the Oriental Club, Mr. A. F. Baillie—tells a similar tale. He also narrates that when, in 1870, he walked into a London Club smoking a cigarette he heard the following colloquy between a member and the hall porter: "Who is that?" "Mr. so-and-so. I think he's a foreigner, Sir."

As a postscript to this dissertation on food there may be recorded the menu of the first War Dinner that was served in 1915. It was suggested that the Club should make a monthly subscription to the war relief fund, and that the required amount should be obtained by a weekly mortification of the flesh resulting in a saving on the dinner served, for which the full charge of Rs. 2-4-0 was to be made. It is to be hoped that future generations will not think ill of the Club for abandoning the scheme

after one experiment. A menu consisting only of—

Consommé Macaroni
Saddle of Mutton
Gooseberry Tart

strained the fortitude and endurance of hungry or dyspeptic members to breaking point : they unashamedly eked out the meal with caviare and sardines : and the war fund levy was thereafter obtained for some time by subscriptions. It was noted by the sufferers that the Honorary Secretary and various members of the Committee were not dining in on the night of the experiment; but this no doubt was purely accidental ! At a later date—when the war dinners were revived in a less austere form—there were fewer complaints and absentees.

From these pleasant recollections and from the topics of food and drink one naturally turns to the unpleasant question of paying Club bills. The early minute books contain many references to the difficulty that was experienced in collecting dues—partly owing to the system of demanding payment in cash when the monthly bill was presented by the Club peon ; partly to the unfamiliarity of many members with Club ways. The former difficulty was to a large extent overcome by permitting the payment of bills by drafts at sight, though even then some members paid by drafts at three months'. The latter obstacle gradually disappeared, but not before various commanding officers had been informed of the lax habits of their subordinates and the Club manager had been authorised to proceed in the Courts against the more stubborn offenders. The minutes record the amusing instance of one member who gave advice instead of a

draft when pressed for payment, and to him the Committee administered the following delicate rebuke:—“The Committee request that you will accept the expression of their gratitude for the very valuable advice with which your letter concludes, and would suggest that to enable them to carry out the financial reforms—the necessity for which your great experience has detected—you should oblige them by paying the amount of your account, Rs. 80-6-2.” On another occasion, in 1859, the difficulties of the Committee elicited from a sympathetic member a suggestion for cash payments on the spot, than which nothing could be more subversive of the very foundations of society in India. The Committee, however, found nothing to say in favour of such a plan which “demands for its basis the introduction of a habit which no Indian resident does, or will, adopt.” Two years later the cash payment of daily bills was, said by the Committee to be “very desirable”, but the adoption of that system was voluntary, and it was soon abandoned as a failure.

* * * *

Considering its age Bombay has singularly few links with the past. The Cathedral, the Town Hall, the Asiatic Society, all these survive to remind us of generations of Englishmen in India long past away. But the Bombay of to-day bears little likeness to the Bombay they knew. The rebuilding of the Fort, which is still going on, has swept away many a historic building besides the gates, bastions, and ravelins. Outside the Fort walls whole hills have been quarried away by that great leveller the Port Trust. In Mazagon it is true there lingers a faint odour of

very faded gentility, but Government House at Parel has become so severely scientific that the ghosts of Duncan and Mountstuart Elphinstone cannot walk there without tripping over bottled bacilli or vaccines. Motor lorries thunder down the road where old General Bellasis used to jog along in his bhil gharry to his house at Mahaluxmi. The Club cat, Freddy, sleeps peacefully on the lawn where the old race course ended and where jackals and hyænas have sought their prey. The Byculla Club goes on, a link, though of less than a century, with a Bombay that is gone for ever. Wounded officers in khaki sit where Outram and Napier formerly feasted, in rooms where Sir Douglas Haig was as well known as a Captain as in recent years he was as Inspector General of Cavalry.

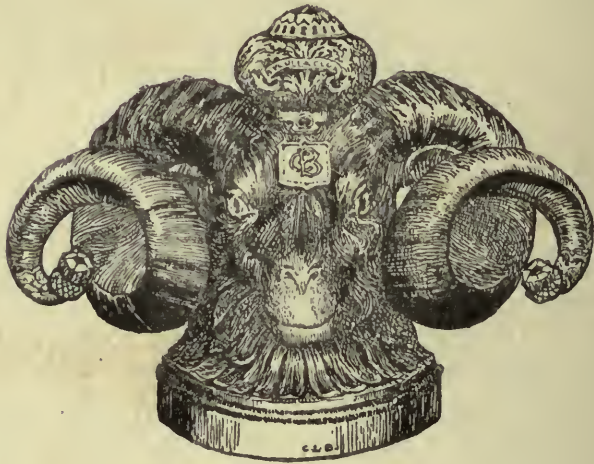
It is for the English of to-day and to-morrow to preserve this historic link with the past, not surely because of its outward form but for the honoured associations and traditions it embodies. In another club in India the secretary once had occasion to inform a member that he had acted contrary to the traditions of the Club. The offender replied:—“When I joined this club I was furnished with a copy of the rules. I shall be much obliged if you will now let me have a copy of the traditions.” The story is deservedly becoming a classic for it expresses in a few words the impossibility of codifying the intangible. Perhaps the most obvious as well as the most superficial and unimportant of Byculla traditions is the daily shoulder of mutton: whether it is worth preserving is another question on which the Secretary’s office must have heard many expressions

of opinion. But there are other and more essential traditions cherished without dispute. To attempt an enumeration of them would be impossible without dispute. To attempt an enumeration of them would be impossible without incurring the risk of being classified either as prig or snob. To most members they must be fairly obvious. Perhaps some curious readers who have persevered to the bitter end of this book may think that good living is the chief tradition of the Club : they may if they like regard us all as modelled on Thackeray's club snob, Captain Shindy, who was known to throw all the club in an uproar about the quality of his mutton chop, while poor Mrs. Shindy and the children lived in dingy lodgings, waited upon by a charity-girl in pattens. The Byculla Club can survive the imputation and yet be proud of the fact that in its day it has done itself very well indeed. But it may justly be contended that it has been good fellowship, not good living or a splendid club house, that has made the Club and has created that affection for it which most of its members feel, as part—to quote Sir Richard Temple—of a living edifice composed of human minds and hearts. Of the men who made the Club—famous men “such as did bear rule in their kingdoms, men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding...all these were honoured in their generations and were the glory of their times”—but little has been written in this book. It is not with those men, but with the inheritance they bequeathed and with the manner in which it has been treated, that this history has dealt, not least of all in the hope that the genera-

tions to come may find in these pages an incentive to preserve the associations, if not also the site, of the Byculla Club. The familiar imagery of the classical torch-race suggests the members' duty—

ET QUASI CURSORES VITAE LAMPADA TRADUNT.

One generation after another sacrifices the last to itself and then itself in turn to the next. Thus may the life of the Club be carried on, even in a new Bombay of which the most far-seeing can have no conception.



Presidents of the Club.



SIR LYTTELTON BAYLEY,
1868, 1879 and 1888-95.



MR. LESLIE CRAWFORD,
1901-08 and 1910-12.



SIR JOHN HEATON, 1913-16.



SIR BASIL SCOTT, 1909

Face p. 166.

APPENDIX A.

LIST OF PRESIDENTS OF THE BYCULLA
CLUB SINCE 1864.

- 1864 Colonel Rivers, R.E.
1865 A. F. Bellasis, Esq.
1866-67 A. R. Scoble, Esq.
1868 The Hon'ble Mr. Justice L. H. Bayley.
1869 The Hon'ble B. H. Ellis.
1870 { Mr. J. Mouat, Esq., v.c., c.B.
} Col. J. S. Trevor, R.E. (Acting).
1871-72 The Hon'ble Mr. S. Mansfield.
1873-78 The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gibbs.
1879 The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bayley.
1880-84 The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kemball.
1885 Sir James B. Peile.
1886-87 Sir Charles Sargent, Kt.
1888-95 The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bayley.
1896-98 Sir Charles Farran, Kt.
1899-00 J. Macpherson, Esq.
1901-08 Leslie Crawford, Esq.
1909 The Hon'ble Sir Basil Scott, Kt.
1910-12 Leslie Crawford, Esq.
1913-16 The Hon'ble Sir John Heaton, Kt.

APPENDIX B.

HONORARY SECRETARIES OR SECRETARIES OF
THE BYCULLA CLUB.

1841 (?)	Capt. J. Burrows.
1844	W. B. Tristram.
1844	E. T. Downes.
1853	R. L. Cole.
1856	W. Johnson.
1857	J. A. Mackenzie.
1859	C. Lake.
1860	J. A. Mackenzie.
1861	Major J. Wray.
1865	Capt. R. Hoskins.
1866	J. H. Grant.
1867	H. E. Jacomb, I.C.S.
1868	Bruce Seton.
1870	F. J. Oliphant.
1871	W. Lee-Warner.
1872	Major C. Collier.
1873	W. Webb.
1875	Horace W. Barker.
1876	James Thorburn.
1877	C. A. W. Cameron.
1879	G. K. Remington.
1882	A. A. Conroy.
1885	Lt.-Col. W. Merriman.
1886	Cecil Gray.
1887	Surg.-Major H. P. Yeld.
1888	W. Webb.
1899	C. Boileau.
1904	Dr. A. H. Deane.
1905	Francis H. Tod.

- 1909 The Hon. A. Hill Trevor.
 1914 W. P. Pechey.
 1916 N. R. Medley.

Of the above a few only were paid secretaries. Mr. Cole in 1853 was appointed on a salary of Rs. 150 per mensem "with a lower room amongst the sleeping rooms, not being one of the end ones, as an office." Mr. Lake in 1859 received Rs. 200 per mensem.

Many expressions of gratitude to the honorary secretaries appear in the minute books. When Capt. Burrows resigned in January 1844, it was placed on record that his able management of the Club and improvement of the finances had enabled the Committee "to enlarge the Club to an eminent degree of magnificence." The name of Dr. Downes is well known to successive generations owing to the fact that his portrait hangs in the Club. At a meeting in August 1853 it was resolved :—

"That the members of the Club, deeply regretting to learn that the state of Dr. Downes's health compels him to quit the secretaryship for a temporary period, avail themselves of the opportunity to express their sense of the great services he has rendered to them since 1844, when he first took on himself the onerous duties of secretary. The members cordially and gratefully thank Dr. Downes for the attention he has given for so many years to the affairs of the Club, for the zeal and anxiety he has always shown to promote its best interest, and specially for the kind solicitude he has ever evinced for the comfort and convenience of its members and, while they cannot but regret the cause which is about to separate him from them for a time, they are glad of the occasion to record their great obligations to him for having done so much for them hitherto, and they beg to assure him that he has their most sincere wishes and sympathies for the restoration of his health and for his speedy return to his friends at Byculla."

APPENDIX C.

RAINFALL STATISTICS.

Thomas Ormiston and various other members suggested in 1874 that a rain gauge should be kept in the Club compound and the suggestion was readily accepted. Unfortunately the books containing the record of the monsoon rainfall have not all survived, but the table on pages 172 and 173 summarises those which are in existence.

Among the more exceptional falls of rain may be noted the following:—7 in. 81 cents, September 1st, 1891. 7 in. 43 cents, September 1st, 1892. 7 in. 06 cents, September 7, 1895. 7 in. 67 cents, August 1, 1900. 13 in. 70 cents, June 23, 1910. 9 in. 24 cents, August 9, 1912. 7 in. 80 cents, July 9, 1913. 12 in. 59 cents, June 27, 1915. It was on the day following the last named date that the miraculous draught of fishes was obtained. Most of the thirteen inches fell in the late morning and, the compound and low-lying parts of the town being quickly flooded, many members experienced great difficulty in getting back to the Club from the Fort. When the waters subsided large quantities of fish, from neighbouring tanks and ponds, were found stranded in the compound and of these fish the malis and chokras picked up many baskets-full and sold them in the streets at a few annas a basket.

One other meteorological observation should be recorded. On 2nd June 1916, a thunder storm, accompanied by heavy rain, broke over Bombay when the Club was struck by lightning. According to the report of the storm which appeared in *The Times of India*, "About 9-45 a.m., the centre of the storm appeared to be over the Byculla district and the lightning and thunder there seemed for some minutes to come

simultaneously. A resident in the Byculla Club narrates that the building was struck and that the accompanying flash of lightning looked as if it passed through the room known as the Kiosk like a ball of fire. The Pentecostal effect of this flame is said to have been most awe-inspiring, but was treated as a mere trifle by an intrepid gentleman who had experienced all the horrors of the bombardment of Madras (by the Emden) without being disturbed from his postprandial meditations. The actual damage to the Club was slight. The building appears to have been struck across the dome of the Hall, which has been cracked in several places. A few tiles also were broken and an iron column in the kiosk under the broken tiles seems to have been shaken by the concussion, as some large pieces of ornamental work were severed from it. In the basement of the Club house the shock was felt as if it were that of slight earthquake."

In October as a rule the rainfall is slight, but in October, 1916, 7 inches 15 cents were recorded at the Club.

	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903															
	In.	Ct.	In.	Ct.	In.	Ct.	In.	Ct.	In.	Ct.	In.	Ct.	In.	Ct.														
June	12	20	25	71	18	59	17	26	32	64	12	29	28	42	22	31	16	50	27	10	11	66	19	69			
July	42	73	29	24	19	27	34	23	19	84	41	02	35	73	25	63	4	28	20	60	35	93	13	43	35	36	
August	6	32	42	68	18	10	9	75	16	35	20	10	18	10	7	13	6	45	27	31	17	22	19	24	23	28	1/2
September	22	28	26	10	7	61	14	49	12	82	1	22	23	32	23	46	3	67	10	38	2	79	25	79	11	26	

	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916														
	In.	Ct.	In.	Ct.	In.	Ct.	In.	Ct.	In.	Ct.	In.	Ct.	In.	Ct.													
June ..	23	74	5	42	13	22	21	89	23	11	23	10	29	54	10	91	10	76	31	67	17	26	41	13	20	23	
July ..	13	07	20	50	24	22	50	26	59	26	93	4	62	7	58	13	59	26	54	36	22	30	06	14	65	29	03
August ..	6	65	5	53	20	85	14	84	12	62	10	50	22	75	22	15	10	88	5	90	16	29	8	64	22	44	
September ..	2	65	5	82	3	26	2	65	8	45	19	20	12	48	3	34	3	92	3	71	21	00	10	69	12	57	

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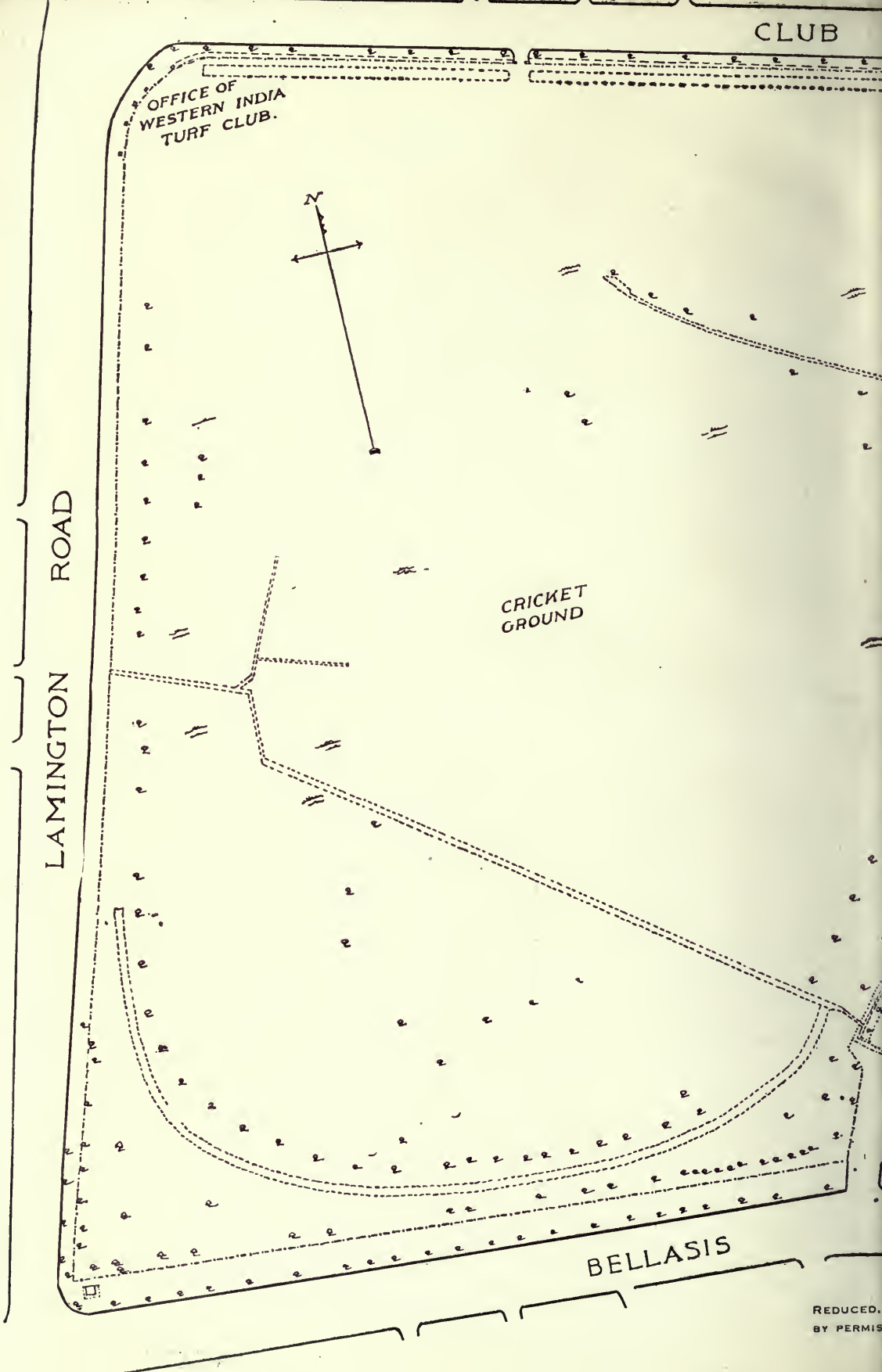
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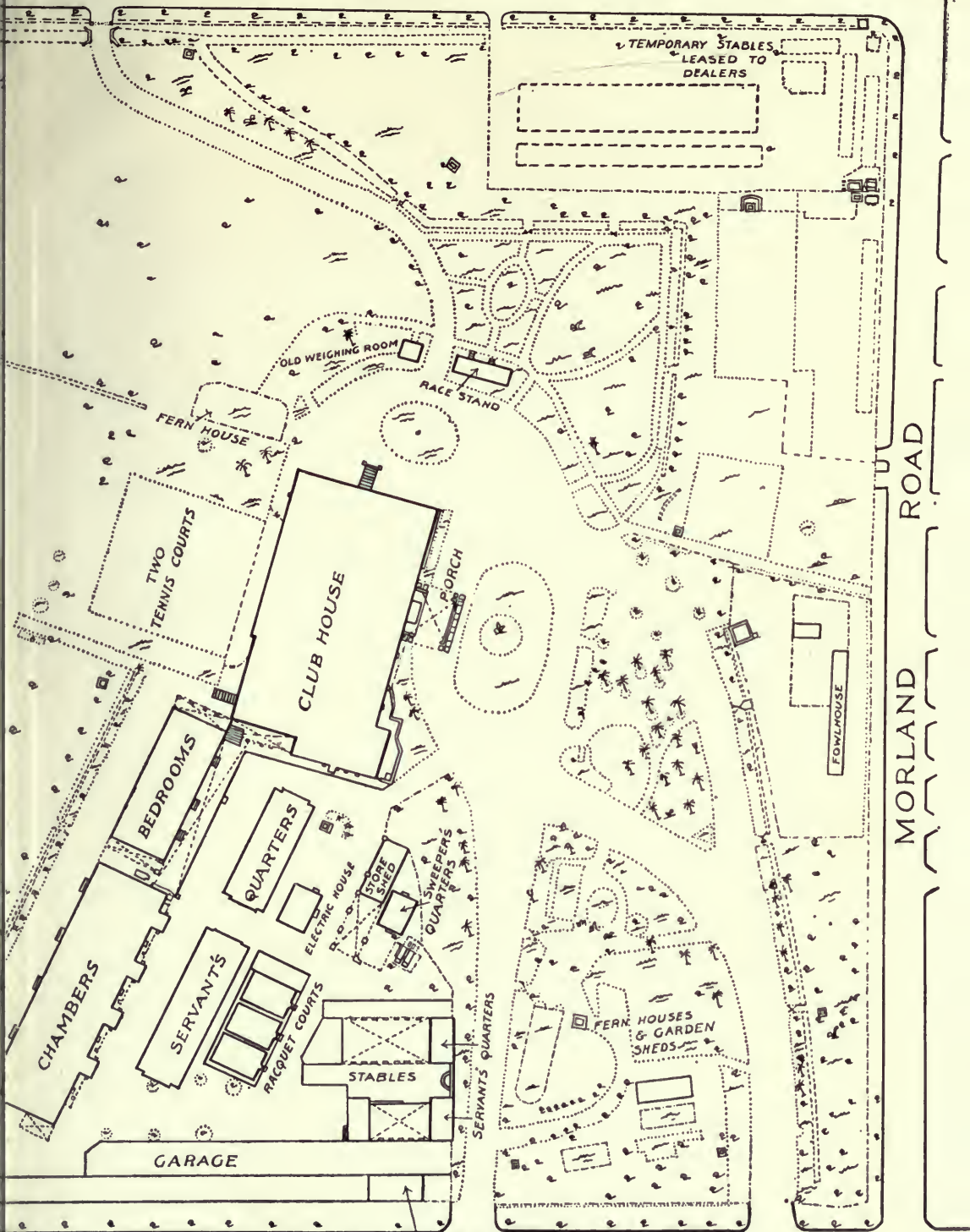
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Sheppard, Samuel Townsend
The Byculla club, 1833-
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