
Review

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'Progressive Portugal.' By Ethel C. Hargrove. (London : T. Werner Laurie. 1914. Pp. 276. *Map and Illustrations*. 6s. net.) Miss Hargrove's book is the outcome of a tour which she made through Portugal as a member of a party of journalists who visited the country by invitation. As the title indicates, she seeks to depict a side of life in Portugal which is not the one most obvious to the student of international affairs. It is a readable, if not a very profound, book, and includes some useful information for tourists.

ASIA.

THE PORTUGUESE IN CEYLON.

'Ceylon : the Portuguese Era.' By P. E. Pieris. Colombo : The Colombo Apothecaries Company, Ltd., Printers. 1913. 2 vols. Pp. 590, 589.

The history of the Portuguese in Ceylon covers a period of 150 years. A friendly visit in 1505 was followed by a landing in force in 1517 and the erection of a fort at Colombo in 1520. For eighty-two years thereafter they were free from European intervention, but the Dutch in 1602 found them in precarious possession only of the low country on the west and south, obtained by incessant warfare and ruinous expenditure. Jaffna was added to their conquests in 1617, but after this date their rule was gradually reduced and at length ended by the fall of Colombo in 1656.

The conditions under which Portugal started on its career of Oriental dominion were that it was a small and sparsely populated country, while India was vast and populous, and accessible only by long and perilous voyage. Thus the scheme of the Portuguese was sea-power, controlling the trade routes from a string of fortresses, which in the course of a few years extended from Mozambique to Ormuz and thence to Malacca. Territorial dominion, beyond what was necessary to ensure sea-power, was not to be attempted. From this policy they allowed themselves to be diverted in Ceylon. At the time of their advent the Sinhalese monarchy was in the last stage of decrepitude. The nominal sovereign had his capital near Colombo, which was soon dominated by the Portuguese fortress, and he was forced to sign a document admitting himself the vassal of Portugal. Upon this the Portuguese founded their claim to the sovereignty of the whole island ; though in fact the north was, and for centuries had been, held by the Malabars, and the bulk of the Sinhalese country acknowledged the rule of divers usurping chiefs. In the long war which succeeded the signature of this "treaty," the issue was largely influenced by geographical conditions. The dense forests which clothed the mountains of the interior were hardly penetrable by the small forces which the Portuguese had at command ; and the Kandyans, who defended the national cause and were soon armed with excellent matchlocks of their own manufacture, employed their knowledge of the mountain passes to good account in a war of ambuscade and foray. It was a ruthless struggle, marked by *inhumana crudelitas* as well as *perfidia plus quam punica*. But the Kandyans remained unconquered and welcomed the Dutch as their deliverers. The Portuguese had indeed no such political aptitude as was afterwards shown by the English East India Company, otherwise they might have attained a supremacy which the Dutch would have found it hard to assail.

The author of the history before us is in many respects well fitted for his task. He is a Sinhalese gentleman, holding a high position in the Ceylon Civil Service ; his native name as given on the title-page—and a very long one it is—is happily shortened for Western readers to Pieris. He champions the cause of his race, and Portuguese brutalities and mal-administration are criticized in