

have availed themselves of this channel, for, as many as sixty of them were wrecked annually on those coasts.\* The places where these vessels were probably wrecked were on the coasts of Nainative and Neduntive (Delft). These casualties must have been so frequent that Parákrama Báhu in the 12th century A.D., promulgated an edict concerning their disposal and had it engraved on stone, as will be seen from the inscription found at Nainative.†

\* Cathay and the Way Thither, vol.

† The following fragmentary inscription was found in a stone slab lying opposite to the temple at Nainative. The lower portion of the slab is broken off and has been built into the wall of the shrine. The first portion of the inscription is altogether obliterated by the artisans who built the temple by sharpening their tools on it. The inscription on the reverse side which lay against the ground has escaped mutilation. It is engraved in archaic characters of the 11th or 12th century A.D. - The edict appears to have been promulgated by one Parakrama Bhuja who is taken to be Parakrama Báhu the Great.

ஊராத்துறையிற் பாதேசிகள் வந்து இருக்கவேணுமென்றும் இவர்கள்  
ரகசுப்படவேணுமென்றும் பு (து) துறைகளில் பாதேசிகள் வந்த (ரலித்)  
துறையிடு (ல) சந்திக்க (டு) வணுமென்றும் நா (வாய) ஆனை குதிரையொடு  
(ம்) பண்டார சேவைக்கு ஆனை குதிரை கொடுவந்த மரக்கலங் கெட்டதுண்  
டாகில் நாலத்தொன்று பண்ட (ரா) ரத்துக்கு கொண்டுமூன்று கூறும் (உ)டை  
யவனுக்கு விடக்கடவதாகவும் - வாணிய மரக்கலங் கெட்டதுண்டாகில் செம  
பாகம் பண்டாரத்துக்குக்கொண்டு செமபாகம் உடையவனுக்கு விடக்கடவதா  
கவும் இவ்வயவஸதை \* \* \* நித்து \* \* \* தனையுங் கல்லிலுஞ் செம்பிலும்  
எழுத்து வெட்டுவித்து இவ்வயவஸதை செய்து கொடுத்து தேவ பராக்கரம்  
பூஜோ. \* \* \* \* \*

Foreigners must land and remain at Uraturai (Kayts), and they must be protected. If foreigners land at new ports, they should meet

[Contd.]

There is some confusion also in the version published by Col. Yule in his "Cathay and the Way Thither," of the manuscripts of Friar Odoric, who visited Ceylon in 1322 A. D. The para: of § 24 which refers to the immolation of a wife at the funeral pyre of her husband, must go as the last para: of § 19, and the last para: of § 24 as the first of § 25 which must be numbered 20.\* Then it will be seen that § 19 in which the temple and tank are described refers to a rich well-endowed temple in South India, presumably that at Sidaambaram. And § 20 which evidently refers to Jaffna will read as follows:—

"§ 20, But the king of this Island or Province is passing rich in gold and silver, and precious stones. And in this Island are found as great store of good pearls as in any part of the world".

"And the king of that country weareth round his neck a string of three hundred very big pearls, for that he maketh to his gods daily 300 prayers. He carrieth also in his hands a certain precious stone called a ruby, a good span in length and breadth, so that when he hath

at this port. If ships laden with elephants and horses, carry elephants and horses for the service of the Treasury, and are wrecked, a fourth share should be taken by the Treasury and the (other) three parts should be left to the owner. If merchant vessels are wrecked a half share should be taken by the Treasury and the other half left to the owner. These edicts are inscribed on stone and copper. These edicts are promulgated by Déva Parakrama Bhájó.

Parákrama Bahu i, is called Srimat Parakrama Bhuja in the Pandawewa inscription (Muller's, No. 142).

\* Cathay, p. 84, et seq.