

their physiognomy unmistakably Semitic. Hair and beard are generally long and black. Their powerful frames, which are clad in long white burnous and wide white trousers, appear all the more stately among the Tamils and Singhalese, because of the tall yellow turbans—shaped like a bishop's mitre—they wear on their heads.

In addition to these three predominant races, the population of Ceylon is made up of aboriginal tribes, the Veddahs and Rodiyas (of whom there are perhaps 2,000), Malays and Javanese (who are principally enlisted as soldiers), Parsees and Afghans (mostly money-changers and usurers), negroes and Caffres (soldiers and servants). The offspring of these different native races, by intermarriage with Europeans, exhibit the most diverse characteristics, and offer interesting difficulties to anthropological classification. To these belong the "Burghers," the descendants of the Portuguese and the Dutch, in whose veins runs more or less Singhalese or Tamil blood. This class furnishes the clerks and accountants in the offices and warehouses, the subordinate officers of the Government, in which positions they are highly esteemed. Lastly, the number of Europeans—the "foreign" rulers of the island—is only about three or four thousand, and these are chiefly English and Scotch. In the cities they occupy all the higher Government offices, and own all the larger commercial houses. In the mountain districts they form the numerous and remarkable class of "planters" with whose peculiar mode of life I became familiar during my travels through the highlands.

According to the census of 1857 (twenty-seven years ago), the total number of inhabitants in Ceylon then was only 1,760,000. In 1871 (thirteen years ago) it had increased to 2,405,000, and at the present time there are over 2,500,000 souls on the island.

As the superficial area of Ceylon is 1,250 geographical square miles, scarcely one-sixth less than that of Ireland, it might very easily accommodate six or eight times its present population. According to the ancient chronicles, Ceylon, 2,000 years ago, contained many more inhabitants—perhaps more