

would he sell it, for it had come to him from his ancestors.⁵

The people of Seilan are no soldiers, but poor cowardly creatures. And when they have need of soldiers they get Saracen troops from foreign parts.

[NOTE 1.—Mr. Geo. Phillips gives (*Seaports of India*, p. 216 *et seqq.*) the Star Chart used by Chinese Navigators on their return voyage from Ceylon to *Su-men-tā-la*.—H. C.]

NOTE 2.—Valentyn appears to be repeating a native tradition when he says: "In old times the island had, as they loosely say, a good 400 miles (*i.e.* Dutch, say 1600 miles) of compass, but at the north end the sea has from time to time carried away a large part of it." (*Ceylon*, in vol. v., p. 18.) Curious particulars touching the exaggerated ideas of the ancients, inherited by the Arabs, as to the dimensions of Ceylon, will be found in *Tennent's Ceylon*, ch. i. The Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang has the same tale. According to him, the circuit was 7000 *li*, or 1400 miles. We see from Marco's curious notice of the old charts (G. T. "*selonc qe se treuve en la mapemondi des mariner de cel mer*") that travellers had begun to find that the dimensions *were* exaggerated. The real circuit is under 700 miles!

On the ground that all the derivations of the name SAILAN or CEYLON from the old *Sinhala*, *Serendib*, and what not, seem forced, Van der Tuuk has suggested that the name may have been originally Javanese, being formed (he says) according to the rules of that language from *Sela*, "a precious stone," so that *Pulo Selan* would be the "Island of Gems." [Professor Schlegel says (*Geog. Notes*, I. p. 19, note) that "it seems better to think of the Sanskrit *śīla*, 'a stone or rock,' or *śaila*, 'a mountain,' which agree with the Chinese interpretation."—H. C.] The Island was really called anciently *Ratnadvīpa*, "the Island of Gems" (*Mém. de H. T.*, II. 125, and *Harivansa*, I. 403); and it is termed by an Arab Historian of the 9th century *Jazīrat al Yākiūt*, "The Isle of Rubies." [The (Chinese) characters *ya-ku-pao-shih* are in some accounts of Ceylon used to express *Yākiūt*. (*Ma-Huan*, transl. by Phillips, p. 213.)—H. C.] As a matter of fact, we derive originally from the Malays nearly all the forms we have adopted for names of countries reached by sea to the east of the Bay of Bengal, *e.g.* *Awa*, *Barma*, *Paigu*, *Siyam*, *China*, *Japūn*, *Kochi* (Cochin China), *Champa*, *Kamboja*, *Malūka* (properly a place in the Island of Ceram), *Sūlūk*, *Burnei*, *Tanasari*, *Martavan*, etc. That accidents in the history of marine affairs in those seas should have led to the adoption of the Malay and Javanese names in the case of Ceylon also is at least conceivable. But Dr. Caldwell has pointed out to me that the Pāli form of *Sinhala* was *Sihalan*, and that this must have been colloquially shortened to *Sīlan*, for it appears in old Tamul inscriptions as *Ilam*.* Hence there is nothing really strained in the derivation of *Sailān* from *Sinhala*. Tennent (*Ceylon*, I. 549) and Crawford (*Malay Dict.* p. 171) ascribe the name *Selan*, *Zeilan*, to the Portuguese, but this is quite unfounded, as our author sufficiently testifies. The name *Sailān* also occurs in Rashiduddin, in Hayton, and in Jordanus (see next note). (See *Van der Tuuk*, work quoted above (p. 287), p. 118; *J. As. sér. IV.*, tom. viii. 145; *J. Ind. Arch.* IV. 187; *Elliot*, I. 70.) [*Sinhala* or *Sihala*, "lions' abode," with the addition of "Island," *Sihala-dvīpa*, comes down to us in Cosmas Σιελεδίβα (*Hobson-Jobson*).]

NOTE 3.—The native king at this time was Pandita Prakrama Bahu III., who reigned from 1267 to 1301 at Dambadenia, about 40 miles north-north-east of Columbo. But the Tamuls of the continent had recently been in possession of the whole northern

* The old Tamul alphabet has no sibilant.