



Aquarell by Hermann de Schlagintweit, May 1857

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Palm Grove and Singhalese habitations near Gálle, Ceylon.

Gálle: Lat. North: $6^{\circ}2'30''$ Long. East of Greenwich: $80^{\circ}10'45''$

Height: Sea Level

In Ceylon a low latitude, combined with the uniformity of a truly maritime climate, contributes to give the vegetation of the island an altogether tropical character. Extensive groves of palms, like those in the foreground, are numerous in almost every part of the island. The isolated palm tree rising out of the barren clayey soil is a chamaerops, that with the high and narrow crown in the distance, a betel (areca), and the one next to the hut, a cocoa palm. The most usual leaf trees in this neighbourhood are the breadfruit (*artocarpus*) and nutmeg trees (*myristica*). The house in the background is built of bricks with a tile roof, the entrance leading between grotesque circular ornaments, and two parallel lateral wings enclosing the compound, though the more general form of Singhalese houses appears in the cane hut occupying the centre of the view. Under the shade of the trees may be seen a wooden frame work, where, in conformity with Buddhistic benevolent practice, which is prevalent in Ceylon, as well as in Siam, water is supplied for the use of the traveller. Wells, however, are here very numerous, water being found at only six feet and a half below the surface.