



migration to Travancore. There is no doubt that we owned extensive estates here once, but 'most of them have now passed into other hands. The object of our present visit is to trace and recover the lost property if possible since the settlement is now going on. The greater portion of our property is in the Vallikunnam Omshom[?].

Sunda~ 1 8th januar~ 1 90)

Yesterday was a festive day in the temple of Sastha and at night in the small hours when fireworks [were] being let off a rocket fell on a house close to where we were staying. The house was in flames and we were roused by the screams of the inmates for help. People came for help and put out the fire. We gave the sufferers Rs 10[.] Left the place.



Monda~ 1 9th januar~ 1 90)

We received the arrears of rent from some of our tenants. After breakfast we left Pathiya Kovilkam for Feroke to catch the train. We went in boats. Brother stepped into the sub-registrar's office to register a power of attorney to authorise Purnam Pill [Pillay] whom we leave behind and another to manage the property in this place. We left by the Mail train at 11 a.m. At Shoranur where we changed to the Cochin Railway we met Mr Mackenzie, the British Resident returning from the Delhi Durbar. He travelled with us up to Trichur. We took supper at Ernakulam and left by boat at 10 p.m.

T uesda~ 20th januar~ 190)

At Ernakulam, last night we were the guests of the Prince Rama Varma, 13th Prince of Cochin and the direct nephew of the Raja. Our cabin-boat, which had been ordered as usual from Quilon was large and spacious and was manned by 16 rowers. We reached Alleppy this morning and alighted at the Palace. We saw Mr Mathe-the commercial agent and magistrate-who came to inspect the palace as it is under his charge. In the evening we reached Trikunnappuzha where we had some refreshments.

Wednesda~ 21 stjanuar~ 190)

We reached Quilon this morning and had our breakfast at the Asramam Rest-House. We left at about 12 o'clock and when we reached the Paravur Lake a strong land-breeze common at this occasion was blowing and there was such a heavy swell that no canoes dared to cross the lake. Our boat big as it was rolled and pitched and struggled against the wind and waves. At sundown we reached the Chelakore Rest-House in the Warkalay Canal where we had the pleasure of meeting Kunjaru Raja of Ennacud and a member of the Gramam family. We left after supper.



Thursda~ 22nd januar~ 1 903

Arrived at Trivandrum this morning and to our great joy learned that the health of our cousin, the Kochu Koil Thampuram about which we had been painfully anxious had undergone a sudden change for the better under the treatment of a Terja Physician of Cannanore. We paid our respects to H.H. the Maharaja who returned from Delhi in good health last morning. Next visited the young Ranis.

Frida~ 23rdjanuar~ 1903

A telegram was sent to Baroda to enquire of the Gaikwar's secretary when His Highness would be pleased to have us at his court. I wrote letters to the 13th Prince of Cochin, Mr Edgar Thurston, Hon. Secretary Fine Arts Society, Madras, the Hon'ble Mr Sein of the Revenue Board, Madras etc.

5aturda~ 24-th januar~ 1903

My cousin K. Raja Raja Varma returned from Kilimanur with K. Ravi Varma or Ithammar as he is commonly called, one of our nephews who has passed his EA. Examination this year. My wife's younger sister has lost her last child and so she has gone to stay with the bereaved mother.

Wednesda~ 28thjanuar~ j 903

I and my cousin took leave of H.H. the Maharaja at 2 p.m. and at 4 went to Thevarathu Koikal to see the young Ranis. The Senior Rani and her mother had gone for their evening drive, the Junior Rani was playing with a maid servant. As soon as she saw us approach her she left off playing and stood looking down smiling. She was very shy and answered our questions only by 'yes' and 'no'. We left for Kilimanur at night.

Monda~ 2nd F ebruar~ j 903

Today we sent a letter to the secretary to the National Bank to [+++] us the Rs 4600 we have deposited with them on the 2nd January last. Brother arrived here this morning from Trivandrum. He is not quite restored to health.

Tuesda~3rdFebruar~ 1903

We wrote to Raja Perman urad Das to sell the Nizam's portrait for Rs 900, the amount offered by him, and to Ms Schlicker [Schleicher] to send the balance of the money due to us-Rs 10,000-before the end of this month if he wanted to avail himself of the terms we had offered him in November. A telegram from Prince Ravi Varma 16th Prince of Cochin informed us that he has passed his final B.A. examination in Sanskrit.



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Monday 9th February 190)

Wrote to the manager National Bank enclosing a cheque for Rs 4480 in my favour drawn by Brother and also sent a letter of Brother asking the payment of the money to me. Sent another registered letter to Messers Weile and Klune enclosing a cheque for Rs 120 being the price of a gilt frame supplied to

us. The cheque book has been returned to the bank as desired by the manager.

Today is the 3rd day of the Ulsavom in our temple.

Tuesday 10th February 190)

Having nothing worth recording I may say a few words about the festival now going on in our temple. During my boyhood and before that the Ulsavom was a very poor thing. One elephant from the Royal stables at Trivandrum used to be sent on the payment of a fee of Rs 8. Its trappings were of the most shabby kind. We have now two elephants of our own, the larger, which was purchased for Rs 3000 by my brother is a noble animal...

Wednesday 11th February 190)

.. He is still young and will grow bigger still. The other is a present to us from the late Maharaja of Mysore. He is presented to our God and is therefore named Ayyappan. We have now got new trappings of gold and silver which are admired by all. They are of the Northern or Trichur fashion. Ten years ago the copper flag staff or Stambha was planted in front of the temple. Before that our flag staff during the Ulsavom was only temporary, having been made of the trunk of an arecanut palm. It was uprooted as soon as the festival was over. Next was. . .

Thursday 12th February 190)

... erected the Elephant Porch² in front of the flag staff. The old thatched mud walls surrounding the temple were replaced by stone walls. During the Ulsavom there used to be only one set of flute players. Nowadays three and some times four sets are invited. Expenditure on oil for torches and lighting generally for feasting the Brahmins and other items have [*sic*] been considerably increased. There is improvement all round. It is all due to the keen interest my brother takes in the temple.

Friday 13th February 190)

The Pallivetta or the Divine hunting day of our God Sastha. The best part of the day's program is the procession in which the image will be taken from the temple to the front of my house where a miniature grove has been made under the big banyan tree²⁰² with three coconuts to represent game. The procession went off well. A large crowd had assembled to witness the sight. Fire-works were let off on the return procession.



Saturda~ 1 +th F ebruar~ 1903

This is the last day of the Ulsavom. Last night's procession after it reached the temple was a little spoilt by a heavy shower. We had to wait till the rain ceased to complete [the] round of procession. The crowd that had gathered was inconvenienced a good deal. When we went to bed it was past 10' clock.

Sunda~ 15th F ebruar~ 1903

Today's ceremony consisted of sacrifices to the Goddess on the right hand of Sastha and a procession on a small scale. The elephant used through out was our own called Govinda.

Monda~ 16th F ebruar~ 1903

This morning at about 5.30 three ladies of our family, two of my Cousins and my sister²⁰³ started for Attingal, where the young Ranis with their mother (my brother's elder daughter) were staying. Four servants of the Ranis had been sent to escort them. A Patta Karan, Harikara and two personal attendants of the Ranis [,] my brother and my nephew Kerala Varma, the Senior Rani's father accompanied them. The junior Rani's mother (my brother's second daughter) is away at Marvelikara at present.

T uesda~ 17th F ebruar~ 1903

Brother came back from Attingal this morning. I received a letter from the National Bank returning to me the cheque of Rs 4480 which he had issued in my favour on the ground that the signature on the cheque differed from that left in the office. My brother has written today to explain the mistake and asked their advice as to what should be done to draw the amount.

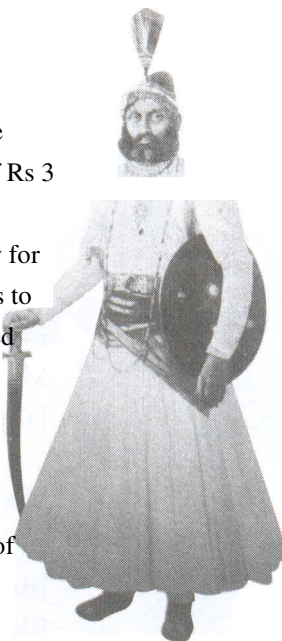
Wednesda~ 18th Februar~ 1903

Yesterday I sent a money order for Rs 12 to the Bombay Gazette, Rs 5 to the 'Prabasi' being our subscription to it for the last and current years; and also one of Rs 3 to the 'Tarascote' a Hindu magazine for the current year.

Today two money orders were sent one to D.B. Taraperwala Sons & Co. Bombay for The Magazine of Art for the current year, & Rs 6 to the 'Arya' being subscriptions to the same for the current and last years. My cousins and sister and children returned from Attingal.

Saturda~ 21st F ebruar~ 1903

The Madras Fine Arts Exhibition is to be opened to day by the Governor. Between my brother and myself we have exhibited ten paintings. 'Pair daughters of Malabar', 'King Aja's lament', 'Temple Steps' and the portrait of Sir Justice Bhasyam and Subramany Iyer are Brother's,





Sir G. Moore's (portrait) is signed by both of us. Hon'ble IN. Atkinson's portrait, 'An old Mosque' & 'Hussain Sagar'-landscapes-are mine.

Sunda~ 22nd F ebruar~ 19°,

Received a telegram this morning from Madhava Raja of Kollengodu to say that I have been awarded the first price [*sic*] for landscape for my painting of the 'Hussain Sagar Tank, Hyderabad'.

Frida~ 27th F ebruar~ 190,

This evening at 5 o'clock I and my cousin K.R.R. with two Namboodiris left Kilimanur. Being new moon we could not take any substantial supper, we had therefore taken with us some milk and cakes of rice which we ate on the rocks below the new bridge over the river at Puvanpara by lamplight. We left the place at about 8.

Having hired two canoes one for us and the other for the servants and luggage.

5aturda~ 28th F ebruar~ 19°,

Reached Chakkey landing place at Trivandrum at about 7.30 and drove to our house in the Fort in a hired bullock carriage. Visited our cousin, the Kochu Koil Thampuran who shows no signs of improvement. The swelling over his lower limbs has increased considerably since I saw him last. Visited the Maharaja and the Princesses in the afternoon.

Monda~ 1 st March 19°,

Read in the 'Madras Mail' of the 23rd February the first notice about the pictures in the Exhibition now open at Madras.

Our pictures-my brother's portrait and my landscapes-were praised generally and my latest four landscape paintings are admitted.

T uesda~ 2nd March 1 90,

Received a letter from the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, thanking Brother for the copies of his life published by the Indian Press, Allahabad204 sent to his Excellency. Dr Peter Lalitman visited eldest cousin for the fourth time this evening. He thinks that there is a slight change for the better in which we too agree. May God soon restore him to good health again. The Madras Times received today has only praise for my Landscape which has won [a] prize.

Wednesda~+th March j 90,

I sent today to the manager [of] National Bank of India a cheque for [Rupees] 4480 for cashing and another for Rupees 120 to Messers Wite & Klein. I hope this time they will be satisfied with the signature etc.



Thursda.:J 5th March 190)

This morning my brother and I paid a visit to the convent of the Holy Angels at the desire of Mr MacKenzie to see a certain painting the nuns have with them and give our opinion regarding [+++]. We saw the work which is a study of roses. I think that the flowers want the freshness of nature; they look more like artificial flowers. The back ground is the best part of the work. We were shown round the classes by one of the sisters.

Frida.:J 6th March 190)

The letter which was written on Brother's behalf to Mr Schlucker [Schleicher] under yesterday's date was posted today in a registered cover. In it he was asked to fix the time of the next payment and told that if he delayed settlement any longer the favourable terms at first offered will not be granted.

Saturda.:J 7th March 190)

This evening at 4.30 took my little nephew and Kunjuni to the Public Gardens and the Museum. They seemed to enjoy their drive very much. They have only lately come to Trivandrum and joined the school and so they have not seen the sights of the town. We returned home at about 6.30.

Sunda.:J 8th March j 90)

When I got myself weighted²⁰⁵ [sic] I found my weight was 129 1/2 lbs. My cousin K.R.R. weighed 113 lbs, Raja 64 and Kunjuni 52 lbs each.

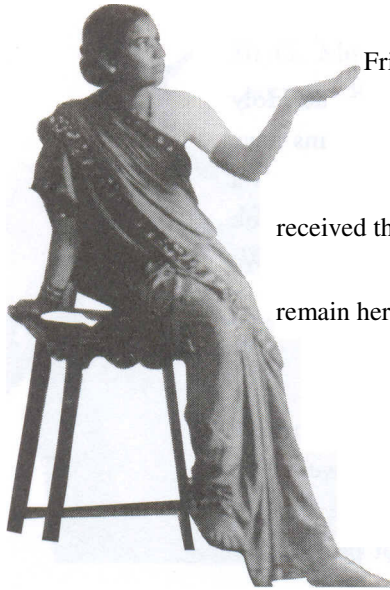
Monda.:J 9th March 190)

I wrote to Mr Thurston offering on behalf of my brother his 'Retired Sepoy' which was much admired in the Exhibition as a present to the Art Gallery, now being formed by the Madras Fine Arts Society. The model for this picture was a pensioned Mahratta Sepoy at present employed as a gate keeper at the 'Pattin's Gardens'; where we had put up during our stay in Madras. The painting was done from life.

Wednesda.:J 11th March 190)

This afternoon I paid a visit to Mr Harald S. Ferguson in his bungalow in the Public Gardens. I had a long conversation. He told me that he thinks of going home for good next year when he completes his twenty four years' service. On my way back I stepped into the New Public Library. The building is a fine one and the Secretary Ms La Bonehardin showed me round. I saw a beautiful edition of the life and works of the Great French Artist Messoniera [Meissonier] .²⁰⁶ I have become a subscriber and paid [the] subscription for March and April.





Frida~ J 3th March j 903

I have written again today to Ms Hussonally [Hussainally] Abdul of Bombay to send me a roll of canvas, 4 feet wide, not having received any reply to my first letter yet. Since posting my letter I have received the canvas this evening. We, i.e. Brother and I paid a visit to the Dewan to request him to allow Dr Lalitman who has been transferred to remain here for another 15 days.

5aturda~ j +th March J 903

Received from the National Bank the 2nd halves of currency notes for Rs 4475. I wonder what has become of the first halves the despatch of which was announced. Perhaps the cover has been sent to Kilimanur and may come back tomorrow or the day after. I have received interest for Rs 47.30 from Binny & Co.

5unda~ 15th March 1 903

My nephew Kunjunni who is gifted with good taste for music was placed under Subbarama Bhagavathan to receive his lessons. Raja who is less gifted is made his companion.

Monda~ 16th March J 903

Received the first halves of the currency notes from the National Bank today. The delay was due to their having gone to Kilimanur. The amount is to be utilized in clearing Brother's debts which thank God has come down from 80,000207 to about 4 or 5 thousand. Had Brother taken care to save the money he had earned by painting he would have been one of the richest men.

Tuesda~ j 7th March j 903

I am now reading Missconerie's [Meissonier's] Life a beautiful bound volume with illustrations. I am an admirer of his style and manner. How I wished I had seen some of his original works. His fidelity to nature, management of chiaroscuro and feeling for tone, are admirable. His life is very instructive.

Wednesda~ 18th March J 903

Returned to J.B. Mehta and Sons eight out of nine rings they sent for inspection. The one we have kept here is for Rs 200 which will be remitted to them by tomorrow's post. Today I commenced the portrait of the Vollur Rajah's father from a faded carte-de-visit Photo. There is a slight resemblance between father and son, but it is very difficult to produce anything like a satisfactory portrait from a faded old photo. The photo of the present Zamindar is good.



Thursda~ 19th March 1 903

What a curious and long name he has-Raja Shri Bommadivaru Bhashyakarulu Naidu Bahadur-[it] is not a name that can be used in ordinary conversation. We have made a study of his head while at Madras and it is a good likeness. He is of a very dark complexion, has not either beard or moustache though he is a man of middle age. He has the voice and manners of a woman.

Frida~ 20th March 1 903

The other portrait we have in hand are the busts of the late Ms Chintal Rao, C.LE. and Ms N. Subba Rao of Rajamundry. The Vollar Zamindar and his father are both half-lengths. Brother has entrusted the major part of the portrait work to me, because he finds it difficult and distasteful to paint portraits, more so when they are from photographs.

Saturda~ 21st March 1903

I gave the Dewan's letter on the subject of our rights to the entire produce of the Kilimanur Adhikaram to Ms D'Cruz to be photographed, I went next to the library and spent about 2 hours there. I brought with me a copy of 'Balzac's Pire Goriot' and the coronation number of the London News.

Sunda~ 22nd March 1903

Left Trivandrum for Kilimanur at about 10.30 p.m. We did not tell our sick cousin that we were going home, since we expected to return soon.

Monda~ 23rd March 1903

We reached Attingal this morning at about 8 and after we had taken coffee started for Kilimanur where we arrived at 11 o'clock. All our relations asked us about Cousin's state of health and we told them that he was much in the same condition as he has been for some days past. The heat here is more than at Trivandrum where there is sometimes the sea-breeze. The cuckoo is heard day and night.. .

Tuesda~ 24th March 1903

. . . This bird never fails to visit our Village in this season. It departs with the commencement of the rainy season. Today is my birthday and I complete my forty third year. Being Thiruonam there were feasting in several Sudra houses including that of my servant Kesavan. The number of Sudra servants to be fed in connection with my birthday is therefore less than usual. I cannot realize that I am so old as forty three.

