

with a certain share in the administrative functions, providing for their own requirements and convenience. Their relations to the ancient Maharajas of Travancore were characterised by much loyalty and fidelity, especially in the troublous days of Travancore before 984 M. E. The Nanjanadians were particularly skilled accounts and one of their class used to be given the post of Valia Melezhuthu.

"3. When the Nanjanadians became isolated from their kinsmen beyond the Ghats, they began to change their social and domestic constitution. Their inheritance became modified, their matrimonial ideas altered, and their caste structure became in course of time an interesting medley of Tamil and Malayalam social characteristics. Thus, the first marriage of the Nanjanad Vellala is purely of the *Pandy* type, and the second is the *Sambandham* of the Malayalees. The law of inheritance, so far as it relates to Nankudama and Ukanthudama, is of the *Pandy-Makkathayam* system, but in all other respects it is the *Marumakkathayam* of the Nairs. The dress and ornaments of the females are those of the Tamilians but the attire and mode of wearing front tufts, &c., of the men are similar to those of the Nairs. The compulsory performance of obsequial ceremonies by the son is a relic of the *Makkathayam* system. The performance of such rites by nephews in the absence of son is in accordance with the *Marumakkathayam* custom. In fact, in all their important social and religious customs, the combination of *Makkathayam* and *Marumakkathayam* ways can be observed to exist.

"4. The following inscription found on a granite stone near the Pandyan Dam gives particulars as to when and how the Travancore Maharajas acquired Nanjanad:

'In the Kollam era 291, Avani 11<sup>th</sup>, Monday, when the Jupiter was in capricornus, having demolished the Paralyar Dam and having conquered the Tamil Pandyan King Rajasimha, the King of Travancore acquired the luxuriant lands of Kottar and Nanjanad'.

Mr. Nagam Aiya gives a slightly modified date in his "State Manual":

"On Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of Chingom, in the Kollam year 282, when Jupiter was in capricornus, the King of Kupaka (Venad) defeated king Rajasimha of Tamil Pandya and broke the Parali Dam and conquered the country of Kottar and Nanjanad."

"5. The following tradition is extant to show how the Nanjanadians who were Makkathayees before, became Marumakkathayees. There was once a dispute as to the sovereignty of Nanjanad between the Pandyan and Travancore kings. It was contended by the Pandyan king that the whole of Nanjanad was under his sway, that the Pandyan Anai was constructed in memory of the Pandyan king and that, for these and other reasons, the sovereign right vested in him. He also said that the Travancore king and his people are Makkathayees, whereas the people of Nanjanad were Marumakkathayees like the Pandya people. This was opposed by the Travancore king who said that the Nanjanadians were Marumakkathayees, that the Pandyan Dam was constructed by the Travancore Government in memory of a Pandyan king who was friendly with his contemporary king of Travancore. The dam