



**LAWRENCE NIVEN**  
Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens  
Singapore, 1860-1875.



# THE GARDENS' BULLETIN, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

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## **Mr. Lawrence Niven.**

Mr. Lawrence Niven commenced work at the Botanical Gardens almost as soon as they were opened by the "Singapore Agri-horticultural Society," which was formed in 1859. The Gardens were developed in 1861-62 and after successful shows in the former year, it is recorded that "The Society had obtained the part time services of Mr. Lawrence Niven as Superintendent." Mr. Niven was also superintendent of an adjoining nutmeg plantation, so that he could combine the two very well. He earned the thanks of the Committee for "his taste in laying out the Gardens," and Mr. Buckley records that he made the Gardens very attractive by large beds of pretty flowers. He is also mentioned with praise in the Gardens Guide published in 1889. The title of his office, which was more honorary than remunerative, was changed in 1874 to Manager, the Government then taking over the Gardens. Mr. Niven retained charge until the arrival of Mr. James Murton in 1875.

W. MAKEPEACE.

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## **A Guide to the Palm Collection in the Botanic Gardens, Singapore.**

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But two brief notes have so far been published on the fine collection of Palms growing in the Botanic Gardens, Singapore. The first in the "Agricultural Bulletin, S. and F. M. S." (Vol. III, p. 249) in 1904, the second in the same Journal (Vol. V, p. 6) in 1906, both presumably by Mr. Ridley. In the fourteen years since the last article was written many additions, and it is feared several losses, have to be recorded and accordingly it seemed desirable thoroughly to investigate the collection again.. The present paper is the outcome of this work.

In the first paper of Mr. Ridley, entitled "The Palm Collection of the Botanic Gardens, Singapore," the cultivation and pests of the palms has been rather fully treated, and a list of the palms