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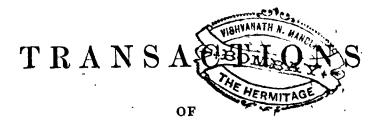
TRANSACTIONS

O F

THE LITERARY SOCIETY

O F

BOMBAY



THE LITERARY SOCIETY

OF

BOMBAY

with engravings,

VOL. I.

LONDON:

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1819.

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(1877.)

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THE HONORABLE JAMES GIBBS, F.R.G.S.,

PRESIDENT OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY,
VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BOMBAY,
&c. &c. &c.

This reprint

OF THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE LITERARY SOCIETY OF BOMBAY

' IS INSCRIBED

BY HIS GRATEFUL FRIEND

THE EDITOR.

EDITOR'S PREFACE.

The foundation of the Asiatic Society of Bombay was laid by Sir James Mackintosh, on the 26th November 1804, and he held the first Meeting at Parel-House, where he resided, when the following gentlemen were present:—

The Honourable Jonathan Duncan, Governor of Bombay. The Honourable Sir James Mackintosh, Knight, Recorder of Bombay.

The Right Honourable Viscount Valentia.

General Oliver Nicolls, Commander-in-Chief at Bombay.

Stuart Moncrieff Threipland, Esq., Advocate General.

Helenus Scott, M.D., First Member of the Medical Board. William Dowdeswell, Esq., Barrister-at-law.

Henry Salt, Esq., afterwards Consul-General in Egypt...

Lieutenant-Colonel Brooks, afterwards Military Accountant General at Bombay.

Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Boden, Quarter-Master General at Bombay.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Charlton Harris, Deputy Quarter-Master General at Bombay.

Charles Forbes, Esq., Merchant.

Robert Drummond, M.D.

Colonel Jasper Nicolls, afterwards Quarter-Master General in Bengal.

Major Edward Moor.

George Keir, M.D.

William Erskine, Esq.

There was no Journal for publishing its proceedings, and the papers read or communicated. In 1820, three volumes of Transactions were published in England,—containing papers of great interest and importance, some of which are looked upon as authorities even at this day.

In 1830, the Society was incorporated with the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and its designation was changed from the Literary Society of Bombay to that of the Bombay Branch Royal Asiatic Society.

Still there was no Journal established. For I find that Dr. Wilson's first address, delivered on 27th January 1836, forty years ago, before our Society, was published in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal (see Jour. As. Soc. Beng., vol. V., pp. 304-312). The Editor heads that address with the following note:—

This address, obligingly communicated to us by the author, gives so valuable a review of all that has been done by the Bombay Society, that we make no apology, but rather feel a pride in transferring it to our pages entire: the rather because Bombay does not yet boast a Journal of its own, like Madras does. Since the establishment of the latter Journal, we have discontinued inserting the Proceedings of the Society at that Presidency, conceiving the means for their preservation and circulation to be more appropriately provided for.

In 1841, the first number of the Journal of the Bombay Branch Royal Asiatic Society was published, and that serial has, with a few interruptions, been kept up to this day. The old series of Transactions has, however, been long out of print, and many gentlemen have from time to time expressed a desire to see them reprinted. The Managing Committee of the Society had resolved to do so on more than one occasion, but the project fell through.

Last year, I obtained the Committee's permission to reprint the Transactions at my own risk, and they have been republished in an octave form, the plates being folded. Although burdened with other professional engagements of a very exacting kind, I undertook to supply a few references at the end of each article, showing how the subject-matter thereof stood at the present day. How far that task has been fulfilled, it is for my readers to judge. This much I can say, that I have tried to do my best, though the time at my command has been so short as not to permit me to do the work in a very exhaustive manner.

Nearly two generations have elapsed since the publication of these Transactions; and it has been suggested that a brief memoir of the members who attended the first meeting of the Society, and of the contributors to these volumes, would be desirable. A short account has therefore been compiled, giving the necessary references to the lives of some of the members above mentioned, and of those who have contributed to the volumes now reprinted.

Babington, J., Esq.

Mr. Babington entered the Madras Civil Service in 1804, and served as an Assistant in the Secretariat, and Malabari Translator to Government. The last appointment he held was that of Principal Collector of Malabar and Canara. He retired on his annuity in 1833.

BODEN, Lieut.-Colonel JOSEPH.

Lieutenant-Colonel JOSEPH BODEN entered the Honourable E. I. Company's service in 1779. He held successively the appointments of Assistant Deputy Quarter-Master General; Deputy Quarter-Master General; Aide-de-Camp to the Honourable Jonathan Duncan, Governor of Bombay; and Quarter-Master General, Bombay Army. He retired on the 28th August 1807, and died in England in 1813. He became the founder of the Boden Professorship of Sanskrit in Oxford.

BRIGGS, Captain JOHN.

Captain (afterwards General) John Briggs, F.R.S., M.R.A.S., was born in 1785, and arrived in India as a cadet in the Madras Army in 1801; saw much active service, and worked out his political apprenticeship under Sir John Malcolm, during the eventful years of the decline and dissolution of the Maratha confederacy. He was the second Resident at Sattara, succeeding Captain Grant Duff. From this place he wrote the "Letters to a young person in India to afford instruction for his conduct in general, and more especially in his intercourse with the natives," which he published in 1828. Subsequently he occupied a diplomatic post in Persia, and filled successively the offices of Resident at Nagpore and Commissioner of Mysore.

While in India and after his return home he made many contributions to almost every department of literature and science connected with the East. He collated and edited the "History of the Rise of Mahomedan Power in India," by Ferishta, perhaps the most beautiful and extended specimen of Persian lithography ever executed,—which was printed in Bombay in 1831; his translation of Ferishta in 4 vols., published in 1829, has attained the rank of a classic; he translated the Siyar-ul-Mutakhirin, or "Review of the Moderns," by Ghulam Hussain, the "Chronicle of the Decay of the Mogal Empire and Mussulman Domination." His work on the Land Tax of India (1836) has ever been held, and still remains, a most valuable storehouse of

information both for the historian and the statesman. He also wrote other valuable pamphlets on various Indian subjects,—such as the Cotton Trade in India (1839); "Aborigines of India" in Jameson's Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal for October, 1851; and four papers contributed to the Transactions and Journal of the parent Society, viz. "An Autobiographical Memoir of the early Life of Nana Farnevis," "Secret Correspondence of the Court of the Peshwa Mádhava Rao," "Essay on the Life and Writings of Ferishta," and "An Account of the Sherley Family."

The General's later labours were given rather to national and imperial objects than to such as would be directly conducive either to the purposes of men in power or to his own profit. He was one of the first, and for some time one of the most active members of the Anti-Corn-Law-League, and unsuccessfully contested Exeter on Free Trade principles. As a proprietor of Indian stock he took a prominent part in denouncing the deposition of the Raja of Sattara, at whose Court he had been Resident, and in advocating his restoration. He lost no opportunity of attacking the policy of annexation pursued during the administration of the Marquis of Dalhousie, and evinced sagacity and political foresight in prognosticating its consequences. He died at Burgess Hill, near Brighton, 27th April 1875, aged 90 years.

Brooks, Lieut.-Colonel.

Captain (afterwards Major-General) WILLIAM BROOKS was appointed to the Bombay Engineers in 1782. He held successively the appointments of Director of the Fire Engines at the Presidency; President, Committee of Survey; Superintending Engineer at the Presidency; Member of the Military Board; Military Auditor General, and Chief Engineer at the Presidency, and died in England on the 30th October 1838.

BRUCE, WILLIAM, Esq.

Mr. BREGE was the East India Company's Resident at Bushire in 1813.

CARNAC, Captain James Rivett.

Captain (afterwards Major-General) Sir James Rivett Carnac, Bart., belonged to the Madras Army. Subsequently he was Resident at Baroda. After his return home he became a Member of the Court of Directors from 1829 to 1838, Deputy Chairman of that body in 1835-36, and Chairman from 1836 to 1838, and was Governor of Bombay from 1839 to 1841.

COATS, THOMAS, Esq.

Mr. Coats was appointed Assistant Surgeon on the Bombay Establishment in 1799, and retired to England in 1822.

COPLAND, JOHN, Esq.

Assistant Surgeon John Copland entered the service in 1808, and was appointed Assistant Surgeon on the 11th September 1809. He held

the appointment of Garrison Surgeon's Mate and Deputy Medical Store-keeper at the Presidency, and died in Bombay on the 12th December 1818.

Crawford, John, Esq.

Mr. CRAWFORD was Resident at Djocjocarta, in Java, in 1816-17.

Duncan, The Honourable Jonathan.

The Honourable Jonathan Duncan was a member of the Bengal Civil Service, and for many years Resident at Benares. He was afterwards Governor of Bombay, from 1795 to 11th August 1811.

He died at Bombay, and was buried in the Cathedral. The following is the inscription on the handsome and tasteful monument raised to his memory:—

"IN MEMORY OF

THE HON'BLE JONATHAN DUNCAN, GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY FROM 1795 to 1811.

Recommended to that high office by his talents and integrity in the discharge of various important duties in Bengal and Benares, his purity and zeal for the public good were equally conspicuous during his long and upright administration at this Presidency.

With a generous disregard of personal interest,
his private life was adorned
by the most munificent acts of charity and friendship
to all classes of the community.

To the natives in particular he was a friend and protector, to whom they looked with unbounded confidence, and never appealed in vain.

He was born at Wardhouse, in the county of Forfar, in Scotland, on the 1st May 1756;

came to India at the age of 16; and after 39 years of uninterrupted service died at this place on 11th August 1811.

INFANTICIDE ABOLISHED

IN

BENARES AND KATTYWAR.

Several of the British inhabitants of Bombay, justly appreciating his distinguished merits in public and private life, have raised this monument as a tribute of respect and esteem.

MDCCCXVII."

A full account of his services to the cause of suppression of female infanticide is given in Dr. Wilson's History of the Suppression of Infanticide in Western India,

DANGERFIELD, Captain Frederic.

Captain DANGERFIELD entered the Bombay Army in 1804; became Captain in 1820; and died at Indore on 6th December 1828.

DEUMMOND, ROBERT, M.D.

Surgeon ROBERT DRUMMOND was appointed to the Bombay Medical Establishment in 1796. He was Residency Surgeon, Baroda, and Surgeon to the Judge of Appeal and Circuit in Guzerat, and was struck off the rolls of the Bombay Army on the 14th March 1809, having been lost at sea on his passage home. He published Grammars of the Marathi, Gujarati, and Malabari languages, "from which gleanings may yet be made by the best of our local philologists." (Dr. Wilson in the Jour. Bo. Br. R. As. Soc., vol. IV., p. 283.)

ERSKINE, WILLIAM, Esq.

Mr. W. ERSKINE came to Bombay with Sir James Mackintosh. In 1808, he was appointed Clerk of Small Causes; and in 1820, Master in Equity in H. M.'s Supreme Court. He left India in 1823, and afterwards resided chiefly at Edinburgh, and Bonn on the Rhine. He died in May 1852. His contributions to these Transactions are alone sufficient to attest his merits as a scholar and investigator. The reading public are likewise aware of his "Life of Baber and Humayun," 2 vols., and "Translation of the Memoirs of the Emperor Baber." The Rev. Dr. Wilson wrote a brief memoir of Mr. Erskine's researches, which will be found at pp. 276-84, vol. IV. of the Jour. Bo. Br. R. As. Soc.

Forbes, Charles, Esq.

Mr. (afterwards SIR CHARLES) FORBES was a member of the firm of Forbes & Co. of this city. He was one of the first members of the Society, and one of the greatest benefactors of the people of India. He died in 1850, and the following notice occurs in the Report of the Royal Asiatic Society for that year:—

"The earnest and active interest always taken by Sir Charles Forbes in the welfare and in the social and intellectual improvement of the people of India would have entitled him to especial notice in the Report of the Royal Asiatic Society, even although he had not, by his personal influence among his Parsi'friends at Bombay, brought many of them into association, by introducing them as members of our own body. This was part of the noble design which occupied the thoughts and warmed the generous heart of Sir

Charles, anxious to elevate the character of the natives of India, by leading them to a practical conviction and a due appreciation of their own intellectual and moral capabilities, by bringing into public view the results of their honourable exertions, and by associating the most intelligent and distinguished amongst them with European society on terms of friendly intercourse.

"Sir Charles took a warm interest in the success of the Society's labours, and entered with much spirit into the operations of the Committee of Agriculture and Commerce, formed in 1837, of which he was a Chairman. During the latter years of his life the state of his health deprived the Society of his services; and by his death the people of Hindustan, and the natives of Bombay in particular, have lost a zealous friend and enlightened advocate."

The following is a copy of the inscription on the statue voted to Sir Charles by the people of Bombay, and which now stands in the Town Hall:—

"Sir CHARLES FORBES, Baronet,

The disinterested benefactor of the native inhabitants of this island, and the tried and trusted friend of the people of India.

Erected in token of esteem and gratitude

by

the native inhabitants of Bombay, 1841."

FRISSELL, Lieut. EDWARD.

Lieutenant EDWARD S. FRISSELL entered the service in 1797, and did duty with the Resident's Escort at Poona. He died at Calcutta on the 1st February 1807.

FREDERICK, Captain EDWARD.

Lieutenant (afterwards General) EDWARD FREDERICK, C.B., entered the Honourable E. I. Company's service in 17,79, and held successively the offices of Assistant Commissary General, and Commissary General, Bombay Army. He died in England on the 5th December 1866.

Graham, Lieut. James William.

Lieutenant (afterwards Major) James William Graham entered the service in 1800, and held successively the offices of Chief Interpreter and Translator to the Supreme Court of Judicature. He was cashiered on the 20th November 1828, by sentence of a general court-martial. It is not known what became of him afterwards.

HALL, Captain BASIL.

Captain Basil Hall, R.N., F.R.S., was the son of Sir John Hall, Geologist, and President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Born in 1788, he entered the Navy in 1802. He commanded the Lyra at the time when Lord

Macartney was sent on a mission to the coast of Pekin, and published an interesting account of his visit to Loochoo. He was the author of observations on a comet at the time when he was on the South American station, and of a paper on the geology of the Cape of Good Hope. At an early period of his life his favourite science was astronomy, but geology could not be indifferent to the son of Sir James Hall. He was always most anxious to serve science by receiving the instructions of distinguished philosophers, and recording for their use observations made by him in the distant parts of the world which he had the opportunity of visiting. He was an able observer and practical astronomer, and had occasion to turn those qualities to excellent account as a naval officer. He was author of many works of great interest, chiefly connected with what he had himself seen in different parts of the globe. He died in 1844.—Obituary notice in Trans. Royal Society.

HAMMER, JOSEPH, Esq.

JOSEPH-HAMMER (afterwards Baron HAMMER-PURGSTALL) was born at Gratz, in Styria, in 1774, and early distinguished himself in Oriental literature. In 1799, he was sent to Constantinople by the Austrian Government, and soon after he was placed in charge of the Consulate in Egypt. In 1815, he recovered for his Government the literary treasures carried off by the French in 1809. In 1834, he was presented by the King of Persia with the order of the Lion and Sun. The Government of Austria made him a Baron in 1835. In 1840, he retired from public life, and died on 23rd November 1857, in the 84th year of his age. The foundation of the Imperial Academy of Sciences at Vienna was due to his influence. He was a voluminous writer, and also an editor and translator of Oriental works, chiefly Arabic, Persian, and Turkish.

HARRIS, Lieut.-Colonel T. C.

Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Charlton Harris entered the Honourable E. I. Company's service in 1788. He held successively the appointments of Deputy Adjutant General; Deputy Quarter-Master General; Commissary of Grain and Hired Cattle, Poona Subsidiary Force, and of Assistant Commissary General, and died at sea on the 8th October 1819.

IRVINE, Lieut. FRANCIS.

Lieutenant Francis Invine belonged to the 11th Bengal Native Infantry, and was Secretary to the Madrissah Committee. He retired on the 25th November 1822.

KEIR, GEORGE, M.D.

Surgeon George Keir, M.D., was appointed to the Bombay Medical Establishment in 1792, and filled the offices of Deputy Medical Store-keeper and Garrison Surgeon at the Presidency, and Secretary to the Medical Board. He retired on the 4th March 1812.

KENNEDY, Captain VANS.

Captain (afterwards Major-General) VANS KENNEDY was the celebrated Orientalist who for many years was the moving spring of the Literary Society and of the Bo. Br. R. As. Society. A biographical memoir of him was read before the Bombay Branch by Dr. James Bird, and is published at pp 430 to 436, vol. II. of the Society's Journal. The following resolutions which were passed on this occasion will show to some extent the value of General Kennedy's services:—

"A Biographical Memoir of the late General Kennedy was then read by the Society, after which it was moved by the Hon'ble the President, L. R. Reid, seconded by the Vice-President, Col. Jérvis, and resolved—That in reference to a resolution of the Society passed on the 14th of January to call a special Meeting on this day, 4th February 1847, to take into consideration the best method of manifesting its respect for the memory of the late Major-General Vans Kennedy, this Society, in addition to its opinion of his valuable services in connection with Oriental Literature, &c. already recorded in its proceedings, do open a subscription for the purpose, 1st, of erecting a suitable monument over his remains, and 2ndly of providing a Gold Medal, to be placed annually at the disposal of the Board of Education, and awarded by it in a manner that may seem most conducive to the promotion of Oriental Literature.

- "2. It was moved by Chief Justice Sir David Pollock, seconded by the Vice-President and Secretary, J. Bird, Esq.—That the subscription should not be confined to members of the Society alone, but be open to all persons.
- 3. It was moved by the Hon'ble J. P. Willoughby, Esq., seconded by J. Glen, Esq.—That the Biographical Memoir of Major-General Vans Kennedy be printed in the Society's Journal, and copies of it distributed to all the learned Societies connected with Oriental Literature in all parts of the world, with an expression of the Society's deep regret at the demise of one so deservedly celebrated in the annals of Oriental learning.
- "4. It was moved by C. J. Erskine, Esq., Private Secretary to the Governor, seconded by A. Malet, Esq., Secretary to Government—That the several Asiatic Societies in Asia, Europe, and America be specially invited to join in this tribute of respect to the memory of one whose reputation as an Oriental scholar is so widely extended throughout the civilized world.

"Sir David Pollock, seconded by Dr. Buist, then proposed—That the cordial thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Secretary of the Society, for his able and satisfactory Memoir of Major-General Vans Kennedy. The propositions were carried unanimously."

General Vans Kennedy's works on (1) Hindu Mythology and (2) the Origin and Affinity of Languages have attained the rank of Indian classics; while his papers on the Puranas in the "Quarterly Oriental Review," then published at Calcutta, and his learned essays contributed to the journals of the

parent and branch Asiatic Societies, are a monument of his varied and extensive learning. He was a Vice-President and Secretary of the Bombay Branch Royal Asiatic Society when the gifted Mountstuart Elphinstone was its President. He died in 1846, in his 63rd year.

MACKINTOSH, Sir JAMES.

The Right Honourable Sir James Mackintosh, Kt., was born at Aldowrie, near Inverness, in October 1765, educated at Aberdeen, and afterwards at Edinburgh University, where he studied medicine and took his degree in 1787. Whilst, however, still a student of medicine, his mind became seriously directed towards general literature and philosophy, and he soon began to resolve to abandon that profession; but, disappointed at the want of success of his first pamphlet, on the Regency Question, he proceeded to the continent to pursue his studies. On his return to England in 1791 he astonished his contemporaries by the production of his "Vindiciæ Gallicæ, or Defence of the French Revolution," the success of which induced him to finally abandon his original profession. He entered as a student at Lincoln's Inn, and was called to the bar in 1795. Three years later he delivered a course of lectures on the Law of Nature and Nations, of which it is said that if he had published nothing else he would have left a perfect monument of his intellectual strength and symmetry. The first case of eminence he distinguished himself in at the bar was that of M. Pettier, for a libel against Bonaparte, when his speech for the defence was declared to be the most eloquent oration ever heard in Westminster Hall.

He was appointed Recorder of Bombay and knighted in 1803, and on the bench immediately showed himself a great master of Criminal Jurisprudence. In his first charge to the grand jury he spoke of the intense pains he had taken to study and collect all information about the character and morality of the people of this country; and during the seven years he remained in Bombay he studied to obtain much valuable communication upon facts relating to the island, its government, and its inhabitants. Broken down in health, he returned to England in 1811, but in the course of a couple of years was elected a member of Parliament, and took an active share in the debates, and was always found on the side of freedom, justice, and humanity. amendment of Criminal Law also engaged him at this time, and subsequently he undertook a great historical work on the affairs of England since the Revolution. His parliamentary duties and feeble health, however, interfered with its production. He died in May 1832. (Extracted from Annual Biography and Obituary.) An excellent memoir of his life by his son may be referred to, and a brief account in Calcutta Review, vol. XIV., pp. 481-96.

Malcolm, Sir John.

SIR JOHN MALCOLM belonged to the Madras Army. He was born in 1769; arrived in India in 1783, and rose to the rank of Major-General in

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE objects for which the Literary Society of Bombay was instituted are explained in the Discourse of the President, and it is unnecessary to add anything to what is there stated.

The first meeting of the Society was held on the 26th November 1804, at Parel-house, where Sir James Mackintosh then resided; the Discourse which he read on that occasion is prefixed to the present volume. At this meeting the following persons were present:—

The Honourable Jonathan Duncan, Governor of Bombay.

The Honourable Sir James Mackintosh, Knight, Recorder of Bombay.

The Right Honourable Viscount Valentia.

General Oliver Nicolls, Commander-in-Chief at Bombay.

Stuart Moncrieff Threipland, Esq., Advocate General.

Helenus Scott, M.D., First Member of the Medical Board.

William Dowdeswell, Esq., Barrister-at-law.

Henry Salt, Esq. (now Consul-General in Egypt).

Lieutenant-Colonel Brooks (now Military Accountant General at Bombay).

Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Boden, Quartermaster General at Bombay.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Charlton Harris, Deputy Quartermaster General at Bombay.

Charles Forbes, Esq.

Robert Drummond, M.D.

Colonel Jasper Nicolls (now Quartermaster General in Bengal).

Major Edward Moor.

George Keir, M.D.

William Erskine, Esq.

*Sir James Mackintosh was elected President; Charles vi Forbes, Esq., Treasurer; and William Erskine, Esq., Secretary of the Society.

One of the earliest objects that engaged the attention of the Society was the foundation of a public library. On the 25th February 1805 a bargain was concluded for the purchase of a pretty extensive library which had been collected by several medical gentlemen of the Bombay establishment. This collection has since been much enlarged, and is yearly receiving very considerable additions: being thrown open with great readiness to all persons, whether members of the Society or not, it has already become of considerable public utility.

The idea of employing several members of the Society in collecting materials for a statistical account of Bombay having occurred to the President, he communicated to the Society a set of "Queries the answers to which would be contributions towards a statistical account of Bombay," and offered himself to superintend the whole of the undertaking: it is perhaps to be regretted that various circumstances prevented the execution of this plan. As these queries may be of service in forwarding any similar projects, they are subjoined to this volume in Appendix A.

Farly in the year 1806 it was resolved, on the motion of the President, "That a proposition should be made to the Asiatic Society to undertake a subscription to create a fund for defraying the necessary expenses of publishing and translating such Sanskrit works as should most seem to deserve an English version, and for affording a reasonable recompense to the translators, where their situation might make it proper." The letter

that was in consequence addressed to the President of that Society will be found in Appendix B. The Asiatic Society having referred the consideration of the proposed plan to a committee, came to a resolution, in consequence of their report, to publish from time to time, in volumes distinct from the Asiatic Researches, translations of short works in the Sanskrit and other Oriental languages, with extracts and descriptive accounts of books of greater length. The plan of establishing by subscription a particular fund for translation was regarded as one that could not be successfully proposed.

In the close of the year 1811 the Society suffered a severe loss by the * departure of the President, Sir James Mack- * vii intosh, for Europe. Robert Steuart, Esq., was, on the 25th November, elected President in his place, and at the same meeting moved "That, as a mark of respect, the late President, Sir James Mackintosh, should be elected Honorary President of the Society,"—a proposition which was unanimously agreed to.

On the 13th February 1812 Brigadier-General Sir John Malcolm was induced, by the universal feelings of regard entertained by the members of the Society towards the Honorary President, to move "That Sir James Mackintosh be requested to sit for a bust, to be placed in the Library of the Literary Society of Bombay, as a token of the respect and regard in which he is held by that body." And the motion being seconded by John Wedderburn, Esq., was unanimously agreed to, General Sir John Malcolm having been requested to furnish a copy of his address, for the purpose of its being inserted in the records of the Society. It is subjoined in Appendix C.

A communication having been made to the Society of an extract of a letter from William Bruce, Esq., the East India Company's Resident at Bushire, regarding a disease known among the wandering tribes of Persia contracted by such as

milk the cattle and sheep, and said to be a preventive of the small-pox;—in order to give as much publicity as possible to the facts which it contains, for the purpose of encouraging further and more minute inquiry by professional men on a subject of so much importance, the extract is subjoined in Appendix D.

On the 31st January 1815 it was agreed, on the motion of Captain Basil Hall, of the Royal Navy, "That the Society should open a museum for receiving antiquities, specimens in natural history, the arts and mythology of the East." To this museum Captain Hall made a valuable present of specimens in mineralogy from various parts of the Fast Indies; and reasonable hopes may be indulged that it will speedily be much enriched, and tend in some degree to remove one of the obstacles at present opposed to the study of natural history and mineralogy in this country.

The Society have also to acknowledge repeated valuable presents, chiefly of Oriental books, from the Government of Bombay.

*The liberality of Mr. Money in presenting the Society *viii with a valuable transit instrument affords some hopes of

seeing at no very distant time the foundation of an observatory, the want of which, at so considerable a naval and commercial station as Bombay, has long been regretted. The Right Honourable the Governor in Council has shown his willingness to forward a plan, which has the improvement of scientific and nautical knowledge for its object, by recommending to the Court of Directors a communication made on the subject by the Literary Society of Bombay.

On the 27th June 1815 a translation made by Dr. John Taylor from the original Sanskrit of the Lilawati (a treatise on Hindu arithmetic and geometry) was read to the Society. The

Lilawati being a work which has frequently been called for by men of science in Europe, and it being desirable, for the sake of accuracy, that it should be printed under the eye of the learned translator, it was resolved that the work should be immediately printed at the expense of the Society under Dr. Taylor's superintendence; and it has already made considerable progress in its way through the press.

Of the different papers in the following volume it is not necessary that anything should be said; the author of each, as is understood in such miscellaneous publications, must be answerable for his separate work.

Bombay: 23rd September 1815.

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APPENDIX A.

Queries; to which the Answers will be Contributions towards a Statistical Account of Bombay.

What are the longitude and latitude of Bombay by the best observations? How far have observations varied?

What are the superficial contents of the island?'What is the nature of the soil in all the parts of its surface?

What are the fossils which are found in it?

What are the strata, and how are they disposed, which form the basis of this island?.

What are the most numerous races of animals?

Are there any, and what, animals peculiar to it?

Do its vegetable productions in any respects differ from those of the neighbouring parts of India?

Do they differ from those regions of the East which have been explored by scientific botanists?

A catalogue of Bombay plants, with Linnæan names, and various purposes in agriculture, horticulture, manufactures, or medicine, to which they are made subservient by natives or Europeans.

An exact register of the thermometer, barometer, &c. for the longest time possible.

An exact register of the bearing of the winds, with reference to the temperature.

On what days have the monsoons commenced and ceased for a number of years?

* What has been the interval between the cessation of *306 the monsoon and the latter rain?

. What quantity of rain has annually fallen?

Till accurate observations shall be made on this subject, information might probably be obtained of the height of the tanks, which would be a comparative standard.

What are the prevalent diseases of natives and Europeans? How are they affected by the change of seasons, and by the different degrees of heat and moisture which prevail in different years?

What were the former, and what are the present modes of cure?

What positive evidence can be produced of a diminution of mortality under the present treatment?

POLITICAL ARITHMETIC.

Salsette.

What is the number of the inhabitants from actual survey?
What is their division into sects and nations, and their subdivision into castes?

Tables of births, deaths, and marriages. In the table of deaths, the age and the qualification of married or single to be added.

In this there will be no difficulty in the Mussulman inhabitants. The Cauzee says it will be very easy. Nor among the Parsees, where the heads of the caste have an exact enumeration; but most difficult, where most important, among the Hindu population.

In the enumeration, to ascertain the trade of every individual.

The number of persons in each family; the number of persons in each house; the number of houses in the island.

What are the wages of workmen in all the various kinds of labour; of servants, &c.?

What are the average profits of the various trades?

What are the kinds and tenures of property in the island? Who are the owners of the land?

What is the rent of land?

What are the implements employed in agriculture?

What is the produce of the ground? What is the average profit of a farmer?

What changes appear to have taken place in the modes of cultivation, or the quantity of produce?

* What contrivances remarkable either for rudeness or *307 ingenuity are employed in arts or manufactures?

What substances not generally known in Europe are advantageously used in arts or manufactures?

IN THE DIFFERENT RELIGIONS.

What is the number, names, rank, and functions of the ministers of religion of every sect in the island?

What is their income and its sources? What are their necessary qualifications? Where and how are they educated?

As to the Bramins:—How many of them are chiefly employed in functions merely secular?

How many are mendicants? How many officiating priests in families or pagodas?

How many have any tincture of learning, any acquaintance with the learned and sacred language, with the Law, &c. so as to qualify them for acting as Pundits?

By what names are all these classes of Bramins known?

What are the places of worship, of interment, of pilgrimage, &c. in this island?

What traditional or written accounts are to be found of the Concanese Jews, of whom so many are to be found here?

In what language do the Jews of Cochin read the Old Testament?

Is there any evidence that they, or any other of the Jews scattered over India, have ever adopted the notion of the Jewish origin of the Afghans?

Have the Afghans any traces of the national physiognomy which distinguishes the Jews from Philadelphia to Bombay?

Has this island or its neighbourhood been the scene of any actions renowned in Hindu mythology?

To what local divinities was the island or any part of it sacred?

EARLIER HISTORY.

Is there anything in the ancient languages or traditions of this country which could have any relation to the Grecized words Seiseicreinian, by which the Periplus seems to denote this cluster of islands? Have the environs of Callian been ever diligently explored? Have any Grecian coins or medals been found at or near Callian, or anywhere else in this neighbourhood?

*What are the most ancient traditions of a Hindu government here? Was the island ever subject or *308 tributary to any of the Mussulman princes who reigned on the opposite continent?

From what power, in what manner, and at what times, was Bombay conquered by the Portuguese?

What remarkable events occurred during the Portuguese government, which seems to have lasted about 130 years (i.e. from about 1530 to 1661)?

DURING THE ENGLISH GOVERNMENT.

Summaries of exports and imports in the custom-house books from the earliest times.

What have been the coins current? What has been the value of the money annually coined in the mint of Bombay?

When and at what expense were the most useful and remarkable public works erected?

What has been the number, tonnage, and nation of the ships which have entered this port, as far back as there are regular records?

What have at different times been the number and occupations of the European inhabitants?

What alterations appear to have taken place in their mode of life, houses, equipage, &c.?

Is there any means of exactly ascertaining the comparative number of carriages, country-houses, &c. at the distance of thirty years? †

[Note.—Exhaustive answers to the questions in the above Appendix A will fill several volumes. And it is not the object of these notes to supply these. I have already referred in my previous notes to various works on Bombay and its neighbourhood: and I would now refer to the following, which supply information on most of the points noted in the above questions:—

[†] As no answers were received to these queries, they are reprinted merely to suggest topics of inquiry to the residents at Bombay.

John Graham's Catalogue of the Plants growing in Bombay and its vicinity, 1839; Bombay Flora, by N. A. Dalzell and A. Gibson, 1861; N. A. Dalzell's Catalogue of the Indigenous Flowering Plants of the Bombay Presidency, 1858, and his Observations on the Influence of Forests, &c. as applicable to Bombay, 1863; Dr. G. Birdwood's Bombay Products, 1860; Dr. H. J. Carter's Papers on the Geology of Western India, 2 vols. 1857; Dr. C. Morehead's work on Clinical Medicine, and the various papers on Medical and Meteorological subjects in the Transactions of the Bombay Geographical and Medical and Physical Societies; the Observations of the Colaba Observatory up to the current year: the Reports of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, and those of the Commissioner of Customs and Reporter General of External Commerce published by Government; Warden's Report on the Land Tenures of Bombay; the Foras Land Reports; the English in Western India, by Philip Anderson, 2nd ed., 1856. The Journal of our own Branch Society may also be referred to. At the same time, I may say that some of the above questions still require investigation and more light being thrown upon them hereafter.—ED.]

Letter of the President of the Literary Society of Rombay to the President of the Asiatic Society.

Sie, Bombay, 24th February 1806.

By the desire of the Literary Society of Bombay, I have the honour of laying before you, for the information of the Asiatic Society, some suggestions which appear to us likely to contribute to the progress of knowledge, and to the honour of our national character. The proposition which we are about to make, arose in a great measure from an act of your learned Society: on that account, as well as on every other, you are entitled to be consulted regarding it, to decide on its reasonableness, and, if you approve it, to take the lead in its execution. We observe that you patronize the projected translation of the Ramayan by Mr. Carey and his friends;—the choice does honour to your discernment. As an example of the taste, a monument of the genius, and a picture of the manners, as well as a record of the mythology and poetical history of the heroic ages of India, it will undoubtedly lay open more of this country to the learned of Europe, than they could discover from many volumes of ingenious dissertations. The Iliad and Odyssey are as valuable to the philosopher as to the man of taste; their display of manners is as interesting to the one, as their transcendent beauties are delightful to the other; but the most ingenious essay on the origin of the Pelasgi is not quite so interesting, though we are far from denying to such inquiries their proper rank amongst the most elegant amusements of curiosity and leisure. Works so voluminous, and likely at first to find so few purchasers, as the translation of the Ramayan, require patronage, which is an encumbrance and a restraint on compositions addressed to the general taste of an enlightened nation. We have no doubt that your patronage will procure to these meritorious translators such pecuniary assistance as may protect them from suffering by their useful labours.

Permit us to observe, that something more seems to be required. It is well known that Mr. Wilkins, a distinguished member of your Society, has long had * ready for the *310 press a complete translation of the Mahabharat; but no private individual of moderate fortune can ever hazard the publication of so immense a work; no bookseller can with common prudence undertake it; so that without extraordinary assistance this noble work must remain obscure and useless in the closet of the translator. Nor is this all:many individuals are now qualified and well disposed to undertake translations from the Sanscrit, if they were assured of the means of publication without loss, and of moderate remuneration where their circumstances required it. On the other hand it cannot be doubted, that in an opulent and liberal community there are many perfectly ready to supply those small contributions which would be sufficient for such a purpose; but the indigent scholar does not know whence he is to receive, and the generous patron does not know where he ought to bestow. We wish to see a common centre, to which both may be directed; and we beg leave to suggest, that the Asiatic Society may, in a public address to the British inhabitants of India, propose a general subscription to create a fund for defraying the necessary expenses of publishing translations of such Sanscrit works as shall most seem to deserve an English version, and for affording a reasonable recompense to the translators where their situation makes it necessary. It is proposed that the money when collected should be vested in a body, of whom your Society would naturally furnish the majority, who would be trustees of the fund, and judges of the works to be translated, of the qualifications of those who are appointed to translate, and of the merit of their versions. If the principle were approved, the detailed regulations would be easily arranged.

It is premature, and might be presumptuous in us, to point out the publications to which such a fund might be more especially destined; it is however obvious that the first place is, on every principle, due to the two great epic poems of which we have spoken. The impression made by Sacontala in every country of Europe would be sufficient, if other arguments were wanting, to point our attention to the drama. The celebrated dramatic pieces of India are said not to be very numerous, and it would not be difficult to realize the wish of the French missionary, who in the Lettres Edifiantes expresses a hope of presenting his country with a Sanscrit Theatre. We shall not speak of a grammar and dictionary of that language, because we understand that they are in great forwardness, and may soon be expected from learned members of your Society;we shall not presume to decide whether the Vedas ought to form part of the plan, because we cannot estimate the difficulties which seem to attend the translation of these books. province of history appears to be absolutely vacant in Hindu literature; but among the *innumerable treatises on speculative philosophy and ethics, some might be chosen * 311 very interesting to European philosophers: not perhaps for any new certain knowledge which they might afford on these subjects, but for the light which they must throw on the history of opinion, and for a conformity not only in morals. -which would not be extraordinary, because, notwithstanding the difference of dress and exterior, the moralists of all ages and nations have in general agreed; but in the devious and eccentric speculations of the metaphysicians, which seem fluctuate more with the intellectual and moral peculiarities of the individual, and which therefore more excite our wonder when we find them agree in distant times and places. which must be added some works on pure and mixed mathematics, which, if the date of the works be ascertained, will, with more certainty than any other work of learning, determine the antiquity of civilization in the country where they are composed.

The full execution of this project will add a new department to the library of the poet, the elegant scholar, the inquirer into manners, into the origin of nations, and the progress of society; of the speculator on the first principles of knowledge, on the structure of the human mind, and on the revolutions of opinion; without compelling them to add a new language to the many ancient and living dialects, by the necessity of acquiring

which they are already overwhelmed. To those who are desirous of adding Sanscrit learning to their present stores, it presents printed books, grammars, and dictionaries-means which have been hitherto wanting, and without which nothing could be done by the most industrious as long as they remained in Europe. Perhaps the ancient history of India may be irrecoverably lost; but if this plan be carried into execution. the private scholar of every European country may, with little trouble and with absolute confidence, read the history of Indian science and art, usages and opinions of the Indian mind. The most interesting part will be accessible: we shall not perhaps have any serious reason to lament that we have not to load our memory with new volumes of facts and dates. We shall know nothing indeed of the dynasties of Palibothra: -But how much, after so many ages of learned investigation, do we know with certainty of those of Babylon and Persepolis? We shall not be minutely acquainted with the biography of Vicramaditva; but if we were to cast up only what we believe on sufficient evidence about Romulus, perhaps the balance of real history might not be very large in favour of the Italian chief.

The undertaking would be worthy of the British nation, and acceptable to *all Europe. We see no difficulties *312 among such a Society as the British India, but such as activity and your influence may easily vanquish. We presume that the Directors of the East India Company would be disposed liberally to contribute towards it:—for our parts, we offer our cordial co-operation. The Society will exert all its credit, and the members will not be wanting in such contributions as the circumstances of their fortune will permit.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your faithful, humble servant,

(Signed) JAMES MACKINTOSH.

[Nore,—The work which Sir James Mackintosh here proposed has since been taken up by the Asiatic Society of Bengal, under whose auspices the *Bibliotheca Indica* is now being published for several

years; the Vedas have also been published in Europe; while the Ramayana and the Mahábhárata have been reproduced at different places in India; the Pandit at Benares gives the texts and comments on difficult Sanskrita works every month;—the late Dr. Goldstucker was, I believe, mainly instrumental in starting the Sanskrita Text Society; but I do not think it is doing much just now.—Ep.]

GENERAL MALCOLM'S SPEECH

On moving that Sir James Mackintosh be requested to sit for his Bust.

(Delivered 13th January 1812.)

GENTLEMEN,

THOUGH I am confident that any motion that is meant to do honour to Sir James Mackintosh will meet with the assent of every member of this Society, I still deem it necessary to preface that which I intend to make by a few words, which are, however, not so much intended to point out the qualities of our Honorary President, as to explain those feelings and sentiments which have induced me to come forward upon this occasion.

[At the desire of Sir James Mackintosh, the passage which relates more peculiarly to himself is omitted in the present publication.]

Among the many means which our Honorary President devised to give effect to his favourite object of adding to the information we already possessed of India and its inhabitants, there was none he contemplated with more confidence than the institution of this Society. He saw how much had been effected by one founded on similar principles at Bengal; and though he might have despaired, from the limited number of the members of this body, and their comparatively confined scene of action, of their ever rivalling that justly celebrated institution, he must have considered that it was honourable even to follow in such a path; and that the degree of success could not be calculated till the experiment was fairly tried. I have seen sufficient to satisfy my mind that the hopes which he formed (upon this head) will not be disappointed. The field in which this Society has to labour, though it may appear small, will be found most productive. More approximated than any other part of British India to the shores of Arabia and Persia, and enjoying a more frequent intercourse with their inhabitants, the source of all knowledge connected with the Mahomedan religion and usages is more near and accessible. The borders of Guzerat and the deserts of Joudpore present most extraordinary races of men to your observation; among whom many singular customs in their manners, if not in their worship, may be discovered: *and there is no place in India more favourable than this to the researches of the antiquarian *314 and Oriental scholar. The caves of Elephanta, of Salsette, of Karlee, and Ellora, are all in its vicinity; and these, with the ruins of Ahmedabad and other cities of former celebrity in Guzerat, offer an inexhaustible source to the curious and learned inquirer. The city of Bombay itself (I here speak from experience) presents, from its numerous population and the various persons who resort to it from every quarter, a great store of information (to those that seek it) on almost all subjects connected with the history, geography, and actual condition of the different kingdoms of Asia. It is not only from its commercial prosperity that such persons resort to it, but from its being the port to which all the inhabitants of Arabia, Persia, Mekran, and part of Affghanistan, that visit India first come; as also that by which all pass that either go from India to these countries, or who proceed on a pilgrimage to Mecca, Kerbelah, or Nujiff. In the whole course of my inquiries regarding the present state of the different provinces of Persia, Arabia, Affghanistan, Tartary, and even China, I have always been able to find a person in this city that was either a native of, or had visited, the country regarding which I desired information. Independent of all these, the Guebers or Parsees (a complete account of whom is still a desideratum) are only to be met with in Bombay and its dependent provinces.

These great local advantages must have been contemplated by our Honorary President on the first formation of this Society: he no doubt also took a just view of the qualities of those that were to turn such advantages to account; and here I am still more certain he was right. This Society is already in the possession of talents that promise it early fame, and I most ear-

nestly hope it will gradually gain strength. I cannot refrain in this place from remarking that our ground of this hope rests upon a measure of a member of this Society, the late Mr. Duncan, Governor of Bombay, who, with a wisdom that does honour to his memory, has, by appointing a linguist to each native battalion, laid the foundation (if I am not greatly mistaken) of very great benefit, not only to the public service, but to Oriental literature—that is, provided those principles upon which this measure was adopted continue to be rigorously observed. The officer appointed to this station is selected from his superior proficiency in the knowledge of the language and manners of the inhabitants of India. He holds an office which, from its emolument and respectability, is an object of desire to his equals and of hope to his juniors; his duties are very peculiar, and his mind must be of a very low stamp if he does not aim (even after he is appointed) at further improvement.

*He is not merely the correct interpreter at all military * 315 trials, and the medium through whom his commanding officer can correspond with natives of all ranks, but the person to whom a reference is naturally made on all points connected with their religion and usages, with which he is, or should be, completely acquainted. But this, even, is a limited view of the probable effect of the measure to which I have alluded; it is calculated to promote a spirit of improvement and knowledge among that class in which it will be most useful, because those that belong to it are likely to have the most extensive opportunities of pursuing their inquiries. The gene- . ral success of the measure has (if I am rightly informed) been fully equal to what its author expected, and the Society will judge, from the rare acquirements of some of its present members (who have been bred in this school), of that accession of strength which it may hereafter expect from the same quarter.

There is no part of that plan upon which this institution is founded which merits more admiration than that which provides for the establishment of a select and large library. This step was taken at the suggestion of the Honorary President, and he looked forward with the most sanguine expectation

to the effects it would produce. In this he cannot be mistaken: a spirit of curiosity and investigation will arise in proportion to the means provided for its gratification; and your most active and able members will proceed with more confidence in themselves, when they have ready reference to all that has been published on the subject which occupies their This library (which will annually augment) must soon contain a collection of valuable volumes far beyond what any individual possesses; it will be consecrated to the general diffusion of knowledge and the encouragement of literature, and cannot but tend in a very essential manner to promote the general good. Viewing it in this light, and recurring to all that I have said, I trust you will agree there is a peculiar propriety in that motion which I shall now submit to your consideration: viz. "That Sir James Mackintosh be requested to sit for a bust to be placed in the Library of the Literary Society of Bombay, as a token of the respect and regard in which he is held by that body."

[Nore.—This speech ought to inspire all scholars, Native and European, to work with zeal in the cause of Oriental research.—Ep.]

Extract of a Letter from William Bruce, Esq., Resident at Bushire, to William Erskine, Esq., of Bombay, dated Bushire, 26th March 1813; communicating the Discovery of a Disease in Persia contracted by such as milk the Cattle and Sheep, and which is a Preventive of the Small-pox.

MY DEAR SIR,—When I was in Bombay I mentioned to you that the cow-pox was well known in Persia by the Eliaats or wandering tribes: since my return here, I have made very particular inquiries on this subject amongst several different tribes who visit this place in the winter to sell the produce of their flocks, such as carpets, rugs, butter, cheese, &c. Their flocks during this time are spread over the low country to graze; -every Eliaat that I have spoken to on this head, of at least six or seven different tribes, has uniformly told me that the people who are employed to milk the cattle caught a disease, which after once having had, they were perfectly safe from the small-pox; that this disease was prevalent among the cows, and showed itself particularly on the teats: but that it was more prevalent and more frequently caught from the sheep. Now this is a circumstance that has never, I believe, before been known; and of the truth of it I have not the smallest doubt, as the persons of whom I inquired could have no interest in telling me a falsehood, and it is not likely that every one whom I spoke to should agree in deceiving; for I have asked at least some forty or fifty persons. To be more sure on the subject, I made most particular inquiries of a very respectable farmer who lives about fourteen miles from this, by name Mallilla (whom Mr. Babington knows very well), and who is under some obligations to This man confirmed everything that the Eliaats had told me, and further said that the disease was very common all over the country, and that his own sheep often had it. There may be one reason for the Eliaats saying that they caught 'the infection oftener from the sheep than the cow, which is, that

most of the butter, ghee, cheese, &c. is made from sheep's milk, and that the black-cattle yield very little, being more used for draught than anything else. If you think this information worthy of being communicated to the Society of which I have the honour of being a member, I beg you will do it in any way you think proper.

[Note.—I do not think this point has yet been quite settled. I have met with statements quite contrary to what is here advanced, namely, that persons living with cows, but especially those who milk them, never get the small-pox; and it would be worth the while of our medical men to inquire if there is any truth in the statement, or whether it is merely to be modified to this extent, that such persons are less liable to be attacked than others.—Ep.]

* 317 * LIST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOMBAY LITERARY SOCIETY.

The Hon. Jonathan Duncan. The Rt. Hon. Lord Viscount Valentia. The Hon. Sir James Mackintosh. General O. Nicolls. Helenus Scott, Esq. George Keir, Esq. Robert Drummond, M.D. S. M. Threipland, Esq. William Dowdeswell, Esq. Henry Salt, Esq. Lieut.-Colonel William Brookes Lieut.-Colonel Joseph Boden. Lieut.-Colonel T. C. Harris. Colonel Jasper Nicolls. Major Edward Moor. Charles Forbes, Esq. William Erskine, Esq. Robert Steuart, Esq. Francis Wrede, Esq. Robert Henshaw, Esq. Major D. Price. William Boag, Esq. Lieut.-Colonel A. Hay. Cólònel Alexander Walker. Lieut.-Colonel C. B. Burr. Lieut. E. S. Fressell. John Pringle, Esq.

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Captain Heard.
Richard Jenkins, Esq.
Benjamin Norton, Esq.
Lieutenant John Hawkins.
T. G. Gardiner, Esq.
Captain L. C. Russell.
Captain Josiah Stewart.
Captain John Powell.
J. H. Pelly, Esq.
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THE END.