



*Jeffrey del.*

*Printed by Wm. L. Ball, N.Y.*

VICTOR JAQUEMONT.

# LETTERS FROM INDIA;

DESCRIBING

A Journey,

IN

THE BRITISH DOMINIONS OF INDIA,

TIBET, LAHORE, AND CASHMERE,

DURING THE YEARS 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831.

---

UNDERTAKEN BY ORDER OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT,

BY

VICTOR JACQUEMONT,

TRAVELLING NATURALIST TO THE MUSEUM OF  
NATURAL HISTORY, PARIS.

ACCOMPANIED

WITH A MAP OF INDIA AND A PORTRAIT OF THE AUTEOR.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

EDWARD CHURTON, 26, HOLLES STREET.

(LATE BULL AND CHURTON.)

1834.

LONDON:  
BRADBURY AND EVANS, PRINTERS, WHITEFRIARS.  
(LATE T. DAVISON.)

U8.2.M3

A634.1

747

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR ALEXANDER JOHNSTON,

MEMBER OF THE KING'S MOST HONOURABLE PRIVY COUNCIL,

F.R.S., F.S.A., F.L.S.,

THESE VOLUMES

ARE RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY

THE EDITOR.

## INTRODUCTION.

---

IN giving an English translation of Victor Jacquemont's Letters to his family and friends, during his travels in India, we shall endeavour to supply a great defect in the French edition of this Work, by stating a few particulars of the life of this interesting young victim to science, prior to his departure for those shores where he was doomed to find a premature grave.

We shall also add those documents which we consider necessary to complete his correspondence.

Victor Jacquemont was born at Paris in 1801. His father, a man held in the highest estimation, is a philosopher of the Tracy school, and a writer of no ordinary power on those psychological speculations to which a long intercourse of friendship with Destutt de Tracy had probably directed his mind. He has two sons besides Victor: the elder in the army, the younger a merchant at Hayti. The three brothers received an excellent education; such a one, in short, as may be

given in the public institutions of France, where instruction is not limited to a knowledge of the ancient classics, but combines with them that practical and scientific information which renders a man a useful member of society.

At a very early age, Victor Jacquemont evinced a strong attachment to natural history, which was probably strengthened by his acquaintance with the late Baron Cuvier. His intimacy with the Tracy family, and especially with Victor de Tracy, for many years past one of the most distinguished members of the French legislature, made him an ideologist, though the natural bent of his mind led him rather to investigate facts than to unravel the perplexities of metaphysics. And it is a singular contradiction, that at the very time he was pursuing his researches in natural science, doubting every thing until proved by the test of his senses, he indulged, when yielding to the confidence of friendship, in all the hypothetic ratiocination of the Tracy philosophy.

This exercise of his mind, and the opinions he imbibed from it, probably induced him, soon after he left school, to become a member of one of those societies, so numerous in France, where metaphysical politics are debated, and lead to wild and impracticable

theories which mar every generous exertion for rational improvement. These societies would fain class the art of government among the exact sciences. They would establish it upon rules and principles as unchangeable as the law of the Medes and Persians, and applicable to all nations under the sun, without taking into consideration that government must necessarily be founded upon expediency,—that it is an assumption of power by a few for the benefit of all,—and that such power cannot be yoked to abstract philosophy. They appear not aware that no form of government was ever established upon abstract principles, but that all are formed and consolidated by circumstances, and the experience of events, to meet the wants of any one community, which may differ from those of another community. The only true science of government is practice; the only power to constitute it is the majority; the only test of its efficacy is a fair trial; the only way to improve it is to make its blemishes physically apparent, and then eradicate them by degrees, and not overthrow the whole fabric to build up another equally bad. But these metaphysico-philosophers have one form of constitution—I should say a thousand, but each is *the one*—adapted to all nations; one coat to fit a hundred individuals;—they have, we repeat, a

thousand systems—each the best and only good one—founded upon their own Utopian notions of pure republicanism, without ever dreaming that man is by nature so imperfect—almost always swimming in so strong a current of infirmities and passions of the most fearful kind, that a republic like theirs, founded solely upon human forbearance and virtue, would be swept away ere its foundations were well laid. Each individual in the mass of society, loves himself best; his country, his fellow-citizens, hold but a secondary place in his regard; and, unless he can divest himself of the feelings of his species, he will naturally seek to overturn a power which has no other strength to maintain itself but the strength of opinion, whenever that power clashes with his personal interests.

Though Jacquemont imbibed freely the false theories of this visionary republicanism, though he indulged in the wildest metaphysico-political dreams, he was, nevertheless, not tainted to an irremediable extent. His unbiassed good sense led him to separate the practicable from the absurd; and in his remarks upon the rule of our Asiatic empire, he gives views of a very high order, which our statesmen would do well to examine.

Whilst very young, Victor Jacquemont undertook



a voyage to Hayti, where his brother was settled, whence he proceeded to the United States, and made a short stay there. In both these countries his talent for scientific observation was displayed in a remarkable degree; and it is this probably which, on his return to France, got him an appointment in the Museum of Natural History at Paris. Baron Cuvier now took him by the hand, and to this great naturalist Victor Jacquemont owed his selection by the Council of the Museum to fulfil the scientific mission to the East, which led to the correspondence here published.

He was instructed to investigate the natural history of India in all its branches, and collect materials wherewith to enrich the Museum, and promote the progress of science. Though the French government was not quite so liberal as could be desired in supplying him with the means of accomplishing his object, he succeeded, nevertheless, in an extraordinary manner. The light he has thrown upon parts of Asia hitherto unexplored by European travellers, must prove of the greatest benefit to science. The present letters, written to his confidential friends and relatives, and never intended for publication, give a very lively description of the manners of the natives in the different countries through which he travelled, but are almost wholly free

from scientific details. The results of his scientific labours are confined to his Journal, which will soon be published, and contains a most valuable account of the natural history of those parts of Asia which he visited.

Victor Jacquemont, in pursuance of his mission, arrived in London in 1828, and was the bearer of a letter of introduction from Baron Cuvier to the Right Hon. Sir Alexander Johnston, through whose kind assistance he was enabled to overcome the various difficulties with which he found himself beset at the very commencement of his undertaking..

To Sir Alexander Johnston, who is indefatigable in the promotion of science, and ever ready to bring forward men of talent, Jacquemont was further indebted for his flattering reception from the Royal Asiatic Society, and for letters of introduction to the most influential men in India. Sir Alexander personally recommended him to the attention and kindness of Lord William Bentinck, the Governor General of India, Mr. Lushington, Governor of Madras, the late Sir John Malcolm, Governor of Bombay, and Sir Edward Owen, commanding the British naval force in India; and also obtained for him, from the President of the Board of Control, letters to all the principal personages in the East India Company's dominions. The kindness he

afterwards experienced from the individuals to whom these letters were addressed is explained in his correspondence, and in a manner that does him the greatest credit.

Shortly after Jacquemont's arrival in London, he was allowed, under the auspices of Sir Alexander Johnston, to attend the meetings of the Asiatic Society, and those of its Committee of Correspondence, of which Sir Alexander is chairman. There exist two resolutions in the minutes of its Asiatic Society, which, as they refer especially to Victor Jacquemont, and to the object of his mission, are entitled to a place here.

Extract from the Minutes of the Committee of Correspondence of the Royal Asiatic Society, 19th June, 1828.

“ It was resolved :—

“ That this Committee, having been informed of the scientific object for which Monsieur Victor Jacquemont, Travelling Naturalist to the Royal Museum of Natural History of Paris, is sent by that institution to India, is of opinion that the attainment of that object is of the greatest importance to natural history ; and therefore recommend to the Council to assist him by every means in its power in the prosecution of his scientific

inquiries in India, and that C. Moreau, Esq., be requested to communicate this resolution to the Directors of the Royal Museum of Natural History at Paris."

Extract from the Minutes of the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society, June 28, 1828.

"The Committee of Correspondence having recommended to the Council assisting M. Victor Jacquemont, Travelling Naturalist to the Royal Museum of Natural History of Paris, in his scientific researches in India,

"It was resolved:—

"That the Council furnish M. Jacquemont with letters of introduction to the literary societies in India, and recommend him for election as a foreign member of this Society."

Jacquemont, on receiving information of these resolutions, wrote the following letter to the president of the Asiatic Society.

*"London, June 26, 1828.*

"MR. PRESIDENT,—Allow me to express to the Royal Asiatic Society the gratitude I feel for the resolution in my favour adopted at its last meeting of the 19th of June. I have no doubt that a recommendation

by the Asiatic Society to such of its members as reside in India, will prove of the greatest use to me in the scientific voyage I am about to undertake to that country. I shall endeavour worthily to justify this favour, by arduously employing the advantages I shall derive from it, in extending and multiplying my researches in natural history. The reception I have met with from the Asiatic Society is a sufficient proof to me that science belongs to all countries; and I also know that, by labouring to make the natural history of some parts of the immense British empire in the East better known, I shall co-operate in the object to which the labours of the Society tend. I am likewise convinced that by the success of my undertaking I can give better testimony of the noble assistance afforded me by the Royal Asiatic Society. By promoting the general interests of science, which are those of every enlightened man, I shall be proud, Mr. President, to be able more particularly to pay my debt of gratitude to the institution over which you preside. I am about to pass several years in exploring the Malabar coast, and especially the mountains adjacent. Perhaps the Asiatic Society would feel more particularly interested in the verification of some obscure or contested points relating to the physical history of those regions. Among such

of its members as have resided there, some perhaps may set a great value upon information which they had no opportunity of obtaining, and which would complete or confirm their general knowledge of the country. In this case, may I beg that the Asiatic Society will have the goodness to let me know its wishes, which I shall endeavour to meet by associating them with my habitual researches.

“ I have the honour to be, &c.

“ VICTOR JACQUEMONT.”

The two resolutions were communicated to the Royal Museum of Natural History at Paris, and the Directors of that institution wrote two letters on the occasion: one to Sir Alexander Johnston, and the other to the President of the Asiatic Society. We insert both.

“ TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR ALEXANDER  
JOHNSTON, &c. &c. &c.

“ *Paris, July 11, 1828.*

“ SIR,—M. Jacquemont, Travelling Naturalist to the Museum, has informed us of the interest with which you have received him, and the inappreciable advantages for which he is indebted to your kindness.

“The voyage which M. Jacquemont is about to undertake, and in which your advice and recommendations will be so useful to him, being intended for the advantage of the Museum of Natural History, we are under a real obligation to you, and we hasten to express our gratitude.

We have the honour to be, &c.

“DESFONTAINES, Director.

“L. CORDIER.

“A. DE JUNIER, Secretary.”

“TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC  
SOCIETY, LONDON.

“*Paris, August 8, 1828.*

“MR. PRESIDENT,—The secretary of the Committee of Correspondence of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, has made known to us the resolution of the Committee, adopted at its meeting of the 19th ultimo, in favour of M. Jacquemont, Travelling Naturalist of the Museum.

“We appreciate this favour to its fullest extent, as well as the favourable effects which it cannot fail to produce in the success of M. Jacquemont’s undertaking.

“ We beg of you, Mr. President, to have the goodness to convey to the Royal Asiatic Society, and to its Foreign Committee, the expression of our gratitude, and to accept personally our best thanks.

“ We have the honour to be, &c.

“ DESFONTAINES, Director.

“ A. DE JUNIER, Secretary.”

About this time Sir Alexander Johnston, in his speech, after reading to the Asiatic Society the report of the Committee of Correspondence, alluded to Jacquemont in the following terms :—

“ The English and French governments, equally anxious to promote scientific inquiries in India, have recently aided each other in the attainment of this great object: France, by the appointment of M. Jacquemont, an eminent naturalist, to proceed to India, and to remain there for seven years upon a public salary, for the purpose of investigating the natural history of that country; England, by affording M. Jacquemont, in every part of British India, the most ready and most efficient assistance. Both nations, by completely divesting themselves of the national jealousy which has so long prevailed between them, have set a bright example to all other nations, of the cordial and



unreserved manner in which all countries ought to cooperate, according to the means which they respectively possess, in promoting those researches which are calculated to extend the limits of scientific and literary knowledge."

After encountering various delays and objections,—some of the latter fastidious enough,—Victor Jacquemont obtained his credentials from the Board of Merchant-Kings, in Leadenhall-street, who there govern a vast empire ten thousand miles off, and a hundred millions of subjects whom they have never seen. The enterprising man of science then "girded up his loins," and took his departure for the shores of British India.

In allusion to the feelings and opinions which actuated Victor Jacquemont, when he set out upon his long and wearisome travels, we cannot do better than insert the following extract, together with a letter from Jacquemont to Sir John Malcolm, from a very clever article on the correspondence of the young naturalist, which appeared in the *Foreign Quarterly Review* for February last.

"At the period when Jacquemont prepared to undertake his important task, there were certain opinions received as aphorisms by the liberal politicians of France, to which he had yielded implicit faith. It was

held to be a self-evident truth that intense selfishness characterised the policy of England in public, and the conduct of the English in private; that insular arrogance rendered us the tyrants rather than the masters of the sea, made us reserved towards all foreigners, inspired us with a haughty jealousy always disagreeable and frequently offensive; that in India our dominion was a nuisance which ought to be abated, but that its duration depended on the will of Russia, the speedy appearance of whose forces at the passes of the Indian Caucasus was 'a consummation devoutly to be wished, and speedily to be obtained.' Full of these notions, Jacquemont arrived in England; the treatment which he received from Sir Alexander Johnston and other members of the Asiatic Society, was well calculated to remove his prejudices; but on the other hand, the difficulties and delays he experienced in obtaining his passport from the lords of Leadenhall-street, counterbalanced the impressions produced by the kindness of his scientific friends. For this, Jacquemont was probably as much to blame as the Directors; they could scarcely have imagined that a single Frenchman, even though his tall gaunt figure reminded them of the last of the knights-errant, would contest with them the empire of India; still less would they have mistaken

his packing cases for parks of artillery, or his dissecting knives for a supply of military weapons; they probably doubted the object of his mission, regarding him either as a Russian emissary, or the bearer of some secret treaty to Runjeet Sing and the rulers of the Afghans; he perhaps was less explanatory than he should have been, especially with persons to whom scientific missions are by no means familiar. Jacquemont manifestly felt that his objects, if not suspected, were liable to suspicion; this appears evident in the letter he addressed from London to Sir John Malcolm, which we insert entire, as it has not yet been published.

“ ‘ TO SIR JOHN MALCOLM, &c.

“ ‘ It is in the name of science, and under the auspices of Sir A. Johnston, that I take the liberty of writing to Sir John Malcolm, without having the honour of his personal acquaintance. The accomplishment of a scientific tour through India has been intrusted to me by the Royal Museum of Natural History at Paris, and I am about to undertake it. The researches to which my attention must be directed, relate exclusively to natural history; true, that it is not the species of study and labour by which Sir J. Malcolm has so much

aided in making India known to the literati of Europe ; but all branches of human knowledge are closely connected, and in the eyes of those who lose not sight of their noblest aim, their moral tendency, lead equally to the same end,—at a time more or less near,—their useful application to the promotion of the happiness of the human race. I hope, then, that General Malcolm will grant the precious aid of his enlightened counsel and generous support to an unknown stranger, who waits them with respect, and will receive them with gratitude.

“ A French ship will convey me to Pondicherry, where I shall arrive in January 1829. There I intend to make no delay. The surrounding territory, and generally all that part of Coromandel, have been often visited by naturalists. I shall therefore proceed without delay from Pondicherry to Madras, and thence by sea to Calcutta. Calcutta being the chief seat of the English power, it is there I must expect to meet men of learning, to visit collections, to learn what is already known, and to find out what are the matters that remain uninvestigated. I reckon for this purpose on a residence of from two to three months in that city, of which I will take advantage to commence the necessary study of Hindústani and Persian.

“ My desire at first was to proceed from Calcutta to Delhi, which I knew to be very easy, and thence by the route which Forster followed in 1783, with the caravans that go to Cashmeer, into that valley itself, or to the upper Indus at Attock. I would have devoted two or three years to the exploring the upper tributaries of this river, visiting Pèchàwar, Cabul, and other places, where the rapid journey of Elphinstone did not permit him to make collections in natural history; and finally I would have returned to the European settlements, down the banks of the Lind, by Moultan to Tatta or Hyderabad, where I expected it would be possible to embark for Bombay.

“ I did not hide from myself the difficulties of such a tour; Elphinstone’s narrative pointed them out clearly enough; but though the obstacles seemed sufficiently great, they did not appear insurmountable; and I hoped that I should be the first to explore this virgin country, as yet unreached by science.

“ The information I have received in London compels me to renounce this hope; the accounts agree too generally in proving to me the habitual state of anarchy and *brigandage* among the Afghans; and security is necessary for a traveller who must form large collections. It would be of little use to escape.

with life, if, after several years of labour and research, he should be plundered, and lose all the results of his toils.

“ ‘ Sir J. Malcolm, whose high office in the part of the British empire bordering on these countries, must give him better information of their internal condition than any one else can possess, would perhaps favour me with his opinion respecting the hopes first entertained of the possibility of visiting them.

“ ‘ If I must renounce them, I have determined to devote all my time and all my resources to exploring the coasts of Malabar and the long chain of the Western Ghauts. This territory, naturally circumscribed, forms a kind of geographical unity, favourable under many points of view to the studies of a naturalist. The establishment to which I belong, possesses in its immense collections a very small number of natural productions belonging to this part of India. It has also been greatly neglected hitherto by the English naturalists. The geological museums in London, sufficiently rich already in collections from Nepaul and the Himalaya, are absolutely destitute of specimens from the rocks of Malabar. The zoology, with the exception of that belonging to the coast, is but little known, and the voluminous works we have on the

Flora of this country, such as the Hortus Malabaricus of Rheede, bear all the marks of the imperfect state of botany at the time they were written, and no longer satisfy the demands of this science.

“ ‘ Finally: there is one circumstance that induces me to adopt this resolution, already nearly fixed, namely, that it will make me begin the painful and laborious part of my journey through the provinces governed by Sir J. Malcolm, and that it will permit me to enjoy the advantages of his noble protection.

“ ‘ Giving up my visit to Cabul, should I, in my route from Calcutta to Bombay, take the road by Delhi or Agra, or should I not rather take a more direct line to the south of this great curve?

“ ‘ These are the doubts that I respectfully submit to the consideration of Sir John Malcolm. Sir A. Johnston leads me to hope that the general will kindly solve them, and guide me by his counsel through this vast country. The kind and dear Johnston adds, that the slowness of my voyage from France to Pondicherry (slowness occasioned by a projected delay of some weeks at the isle of Bourbon) will doubtless permit me to receive Sir J. Malcolm’s reply, if he would be so kind as to send it under cover to the French governor.

“ ‘ In addressing myself to the elevated and generous

mind of the historian of India, I must not forget that Sir J. Malcolm holds an official station, and has duties to perform. I would not trespass on his kindness, had I not the honour to inform him that I have obtained an official passport from the Honourable Court of Directors, granting me free passage through all the territories of the Company. The innocent character of my pursuits would perhaps ensure me sufficient protection from the Company's officers; but I was anxious to have the special and formal assent of the Court of Directors, and it was granted me on the 25th of this month. I entreat Sir J. Malcolm to add his consent.

‘VICTOR JACQUEMONT,

‘Travelling Naturalist to the Royal Museum of  
Natural History.

‘London, June 30, 1828.’

“A greater contrast can scarcely be conceived, than there is between the sober formality of this letter, and the lively sketches of life and manners addressed by the young naturalist to his family and friends. He left Europe with high hopes, unconquerable spirits, and a love of adventure almost Quixotic, but with



an affectionate heart that clung fondly to his family circle,

‘ And dragged at each remove a lengthening chain.’

These feelings, combined with no ordinary graphic powers, lend an irresistible charm to his little narratives; they are dashed off with an ease and freedom such as is rarely seen; their *vis comica* frequently reminds us of Cruikshank; like that admirable artist, he extracts fun from every thing, even from subjects apparently the most hopeless; like him, too, he has a moral in every jest, not the less effective because it is incidental. In the letters now published, Jacquemont rarely alludes to his scientific pursuits; consequently they have not anticipated the interest which all the naturalists of Europe must feel in the publication of the valuable manuscripts which he sent to the Museum of Natural History of Paris; duplicates of which were forwarded by the French ministry to our government. It is on these of course, whenever they appear, that his future reputation as a naturalist must mainly depend. The chief value of the present collection rests on the account it gives of our Indian possessions, the effects of our government on the native population, the result of recent efforts to diffuse the elements of civilisation,

and the future prospects of Hindústan. On behalf of England, Jacquemont is a witness above suspicion; his prejudices, which never wholly disappeared, were all against the British government; and it is sometimes amusing to see how slowly and reluctantly, in the early part of his career, he yielded to the strong evidence of facts, while in some of his more recent letters he rallies his correspondents unmercifully for repeating opinions, which he had himself entertained a few months before.

“The process of Jacquemont’s conversion began at the first English settlement he visited, the Cape of Good Hope; there he discovers how honestly the British government had acted in the abolition of the slave trade, and how other powers had connived at its continuance. For this connivance, indeed, he makes rather a lame apology; but ‘liberal’ as he was, we shall too often see that Jacquemont was willing to sacrifice justice to expediency.”

Jacquemont, during his arduous duties, never forgot the kindness shown him by Sir Alexander Johnston, to whom he wrote from Benares, but, unfortunately, the letter miscarried. He again wrote from the Ladak territory, in 1830, and this letter arrived safe. It

contains an excellent, though rapid, sketch of his journey to the Himalaya, and we insert it here as necessary to complete Jacquemont's correspondence. It is rather surprising that the French editor omitted it, as we know that he must have been aware of its existence, because Sir Alexander Johnston was in communication with Jacquemont's family before these letters were published at Paris.

*“ Camp, under the Fort of Dankár, in Ladak,  
3rd Sept. 1830.*

“ MY DEAR SIR,—I rely on your kindness to excuse my long silence, since the time I left Benares, whence I had the pleasure to acquaint you with the successful beginning of my journey. After a long interval of eight months, I avail myself of an opportunity to India, to trace shortly (as impending business obliges me) my journey since quitting the Holy City.

“ I went to Delhi by the circuitous route I pointed out to you, making a very long turn to the south-west, almost to the banks of the Nerbuddah, over the table-land and across the hills of Bundelcund,—a province lately surveyed by Captain Jas. Franklin, and geologically described by him in the ‘Asiatic Researches;’ and I was fortunate enough to meet in

several with phenomena of super-position that had escaped him in his explorations, and which will enable me to lay down another exposition of the geological structure of that country.

“ From Delhi I went to the westward, through the protected Seikh country, to the banks of the Caggar, an inconsiderable stream, that vanishes in the sandy desert of Bickaneer, before it reaches the Sutledge. I was then engaged in a grand hunting-party, which I expected would have been fruitful to my geological collections, but it proved interesting to me only as showing me, in a fortnight, more of Eastern display and Asiatic manners than I had yet seen in a twelve-month. The hot winds were then threatening to invade the plains every day. I repaired to the hills, which I entered by the valley of Dheya. During about two months I travelled from the sources of the Ganges and the Jumna to the north-western limits of the British dominions on the banks of the Sutledge. Tacking, if I may be allowed that expression, between the snowy barrier of the Himalaya and its lower branches, I arrived at Simlah in the middle of June.

“ It would have been impossible to experience a greater degree of hospitality than I have been welcomed with from your countrymen, during my long

march from Calcutta to the latter place. The numerous letters of introduction Lord William Bentinck gave me, when my departure from Bengal left him no other way to evince his extreme kindness to me; those for which I was indebted to many of my acquaintance in the Indian metropolis; and, above all, to a gentleman with whom I became a friend,—Colonel Fagan, the adjutant-general of the army,—all these I might have lost, and still, I am sure, have been equally entitled to eulogise British hospitality. Even the last European station I reached, Simlah, is like the beginning of my journey,—like Calcutta,—amongst the most hospitable, the one I shall ever remember most gratefully. Whilst I was rapidly forgetting, at Captain Kennedy's (the political agent in that district), the privations and fatigues of my first journey through the hills, he was busily employed in preparing, and I dare say ensuring, the success of my journey over the Himalaya, by all the means his situation afforded him.

“ It is now upwards of two months since I commenced travelling to the northward of the southern or Indian range of the Himalaya. I am no longer within the vast limits of British influence. I am but two days' march distant from the Ladak village, where

I shall close my reconnoitings to the north, as it would prove very difficult, if not dangerous, to go further. Information that I got from the natives gives me reason to hope that I shall find there some strata swarming with organic remains, which will afford me the means of determining the geological age of that immensely developed limestone-formation, that constitutes the mighty Tartar ranges of the Himalaya, superior in height to the granitic peaks of the southern chain.

“Lately, whilst engaged in similar researches on the frontiers of Chinese Tartary, I had the good luck to meet with the very object of my inquiry, and also to find Chinese vigilance at fault, insomuch that no obstacle was thrown in my way. I had then to cross twice two passes, that were considerably more than eighteen thousand feet of absolute elevation, whilst the passes across the outer Himalaya scarcely average sixteen thousand feet.

“My observations on the skirts of the Himalaya, along the plains of Hindostan, are quite confirmatory of my friend M. Elie de Beaumont’s views respecting the late period at which that mighty range sprung from the earth. As to the geological age of its granitic base (a question wholly distinct from the

consideration of its rising up), I think that my observations in the different parts of the Himalaya, but particularly in the upper valley of the Sutledge, will prove also to a certainty, contrary to the still prevailing opinion, that it belongs to one of the latest primitive formations.

“ In ten days I hope to re-enter the Tartar Hangerang-pergunnah, under British control, and before two months hence to return to Simlah. I shall then, without delay, proceed down to the plains, and resume the prosecution of my journey towards Bombay. I am in perfectly good health, and have suffered nothing from six months' exposure to the sun, during my circuitous journey from Calcutta to the hills.”

The remainder of this letter relates merely to private matters. We, however, insert the postscript, giving an account of a singular Hungarian enthusiast, whom Jacquemont met in Kanawer, and to whom he more than once alludes in his correspondence.

“ P. S. I will add a few lines on a subject acceptable, I presume, to your warm interest in the East. You have, no doubt, heard of M. Alexander Csoma de Kőrös, a Hungarian, enthusiastic for Oriental

philology, who has travelled through many parts of Asia during the last ten years. I saw him at Kanum, where he has resided for four years, supported by a small subsistence granted to him by the government of Bengal, to enable him to prosecute his investigation of the Tibetan language. M. Csoma has performed his task, and is about to leave Tibet, and to proceed to Calcutta. His energetic exertions and his depressed fortunes inspired me with a great interest for him; but I fear that disappointment awaits him at Calcutta, the government, in the present circumstances, being probably unable to afford him any pecuniary remuneration.

“ M. Csoma will carry to Calcutta the result of his long labours, consisting of two voluminous and beautifully-neat manuscripts, quite ready for the press; one is a grammar, the other a vocabulary, of the Tibetan language, both written in English. The species of information obtainable through these new instruments of knowledge, is not, probably, of a nature to make them useful to the Indian government; and I do not believe that the circumstances of the Asiatic Society of Calcutta will enable them to undertake the publication of M. Csoma's works. I have, therefore, spoken to him of the illustrious Society in which you



take so eminent a concern\*, as being, in my opinion, the public body whose learned patronage is more likely to become the promoter of his labours.

“ How M. Csoma de Kőrös has performed his task, no one can decide, since he is the only person proficient in the Tibetan language. But a conjecture, and a most favourable one, may be made. M. Csoma has never been in England, and has never had an opportunity of speaking English; yet he is thoroughly acquainted with your language. Most European tongues seem to be equally familiar to him, although he has had no opportunity of a practical acquaintance with them. Moreover, for the last ten years he has been entirely deprived of European intercourse, travelling throughout Asia in the character of a poor native, without any books, &c.; whilst he has spent four years in reading, with a learned lama of Ladak, hundreds and hundreds of Tibetan books preserved in the temple of Kanum. The medium of communication between him and his teacher; was the vernacular jargon of the Zeád, or Tartar tribes.”

Jacquemont was most kindly received and assisted

\* The Asiatic Society, to whom this letter was communicated by Sir Alexander Johnston, authorised Jacquemont to treat with his Hungarian friend for these manuscripts.

by all to whom he had letters of introduction, and by many others with whom he became acquainted in the different residencies of India. He speaks of Lord and Lady William Bentinck in the most glowing terms, as he does, indeed, of all his India friends. The following is a letter which he wrote, in English, to Mr. Lushington, Governor of Madras, a short time before his death; it belongs to this collection, as part of his correspondence from India, though never before published.

*“ Tanna, Island of Salsette, September 26, 1832.*

“ SIR,—I hasten to express my profound gratitude for the kindness which you have honoured me with in favouring me with such a number of valuable introductions to the officers of your Government. I have just had the honour of receiving them, enclosed in your letter of the 10th instant.

“ With respect to the guard you are kindly pleased also to grant to me, if required, I beg leave to state, that the smallest,—a naick and four, was amply sufficient, in most of my travels through the Bengal provinces; and that it was only to go through the Rajpoot states, and insecure Bheel tracts, that a havildar, a naick and twelve were offered to me, and recommended by the Bengal and Bombay officers. In the

well-settled provinces of your Government, I trust a naick and four, or, at the utmost, a naick and six, will leave nothing more to desire to me for the perfect protection of my baggage.

“ I shall not fail to do my best to travel the road you are so kind as to recommend to me, from Mysore to the Neilgherries; and I feel very grateful for your pointing out to me, amidst the troubles and cares of high office, such interesting particulars.

“ With the expression of my fervent hopes to be able of testifying *cirâ voce* to you, in the Neilgherries, the deep sense I entertain of your kindness, I beg you will accept the assurance of my profound respect.

“ I have the honour, &c.

“ VICTOR JACQUEMONT.”

To this we add an extract from a letter enclosing the above, written by Mr. Lushington to Sir Alexander Johnston, dated Madras, October 10th, 1832.

“ MY DEAR SIR,—Your letter of introduction, given so long ago to Monsieur Jacquemont, only reached me the other day. He very prudently kept it until he was approaching our territories; and you will see, from the enclosed copy of his letter to me, that he is entirely satisfied with the arrangements made for his comfort,

and for the furtherance of the important objects of his researches."

After encountering the greatest difficulties and privations in his arduous labours, the fruits of which have greatly enriched the science of Natural History, and will soon be made public, Jacquemont was attacked with that bane of Indian climes, the liver complaint. He was then at Tanna, a town and fortress in the island of Salsette, where, pursuing his researches in the pestilential atmosphere of this unhealthy island, under a burning sun, and in the most dangerous season of the year, he imbibed the seeds of the disease which terminated his life. On his arrival at Bombay, extremely unwell, his powerful constitution gave way, his complaint assumed a fatal character, and he expired on the 7th of December, 1832, after lingering more than a month in intense agony.

Victor Jacquemont was deeply and generally lamented in India. He had acquired many friends there. His amiable manners, his strength and simplicity of mind, his great power of intellect, and above all, his warmth and sincerity of heart, made him beloved by all who knew him. Though at first somewhat cold and stately in his manner, and extremely reserved, this

soon wore off in the intimacy of friendship, where, as is evident from his letters, he found delight in the outpourings of his attachment, for his nature was warm and affectionate. Among his friends, he was a most entertaining companion, lively to excess, and sparkling with wit. With great depth and rapidity of discernment, he granted his friendship to those only who were able to comprehend and appreciate his mind. To strangers or casual acquaintances he was distant and uncommunicative. Not that he acted thus from reflection,—he was, perhaps, not aware of the feeling; it was mere instinct, an impulse identic with his nature, and totally free from any imagined superiority. But it was apparent to every one who saw him; and it may account for the character given of him by some who had casually met him, of being the most frigid and least communicative of men.

In person Victor Jacquemont was very tall, and had rather an awkward gait. But genius beamed from his fine countenance, and in its expression might be read the workings of a superior mind.

We shall conclude this Introduction with a letter from Sir Alexander Johnston to M. Jacquemont, the elder, Victor's father, who resides at Paris. It was written subsequently to the death of the young natu-

ralist, and in consequence of an application to Sir Alexander Johnston for any documents he might possess, throwing light upon Victor Jacquemont's proceedings in England, prior to his departure for India.

“TO MONSIEUR JACQUEMONT, PARIS.

“DEAR SIR,—As I understand from Mr. Sharp that the letters which the late M. Jacquemont wrote from different parts of India, to his friends in France, are soon to be published, and that you are anxious, in order to prefix them to those letters, to procure from me any documents I may possess, explanatory of his proceedings while he was in England previously to his departure for India, I have the pleasure to send you copies of two reports, in which I, as chairman of the Committee of Correspondence of the Royal Asiatic Society, thought it necessary to call the attention of the society to him and to his mission; and also copies of the following documents:—

“No. I. Copy of the resolution relative to M. Jacquemont, passed, on my motion, by the Committee of Correspondence, on the 18th of June, 1828.

“No. II. Copy of the resolution relative to M.

Jacquemont, passed, on my motion, by the Council of the Asiatic Society, on the 28th of June, 1828.

“No. III. Copy of a letter from M. Jacquemont to the Royal Asiatic Society of Literature, acknowledging the receipt of the resolution No. II.

“No. IV. Copy of a letter, of the 11th of July, 1828, from the Directors of the Museum at Paris to me, thanking me for the assistance which I had given M. Jacquemont.

“No. V. Copy of a letter, dated Bombay, September 26th, 1832, from M. Jacquemont to Mr. Lushington, thanking him for the preparations which had been made for his reception within the Madras territories, in consequence of the letter which I had given him for Mr. Lushington.

“No. VI. Copy of a letter from Mr. Lushington to me, inclosing the letter No. V., for the purpose of showing me that M. Jacquemont was satisfied with the preparations which had been made for his reception at Madras.

“On M. Jacquemont's arrival in England, he brought me a letter from the late Baron Cuvier, who spoke of him in the highest terms of praise. I was convinced, after a very short acquaintance with him, that he merited in every respect the character which the baron had given him, and that he was peculiarly

well qualified for the important mission upon which he was about to proceed to India. I, consequently, as one of the vice-presidents of the Royal Asiatic Society of Literature, and chairman of their Committee of Correspondence, felt it to be my duty to take every measure, in public and in private, to forward his object and that of the French government. He was, on my proposal, invited to attend all the meetings of the society, and those of the Committee of Correspondence; to make use, whenever he pleased, of their library and their museum; and finally, as a mark of the highest respect which the society could show him, he was unanimously elected one of their foreign members.

“He, on his part, took every opportunity to evince to the society his readiness to adopt any suggestions which they might offer him with respect to his researches, and to assure them of his anxiety to obtain for them every information they might require from him in India. He devoted himself with the greatest assiduity to the examination of all the different works, inscriptions, and other documents, relative to India, which are preserved in the library of the Asiatic Society, and in that of the East India Company. He was indefatigable in acquiring a practical knowledge of every mechanical art, which could be of use to him in



preserving such specimens in natural history as he might collect during his travels ; and by the whole of his conduct while he remained in England, he gained the admiration and esteem of all those who felt any interest, or took any part in inquiries relative to the natural history, the geology, and the geography of India. On his departure from England, the President of the Asiatic Society, who was then also the President of the Board of Control of Indian affairs, at my request gave him letters of introduction to all the governors of the East India Company's possessions in India. I myself recommended him in the strongest terms to the protection and particular attentions of Lord William Bentinck, the Governor General of British India, of Sir John Malcolm, the Governor of Bombay, of Mr. Lushington, the Governor of Madras, and of Sir Edward Owen, the commander-in-chief of the British navy in the Indian seas ; to the three first, that they might afford him every assistance in their power, while he was within the limits of their respective governments ; to the last, that he might, by means of the different ships of war which might be, from time to time, returning to England, enabled to send such collections as he might make, with safety and without delay, to the Museum at Paris.

“ The scientific object for which the French government sent M. Jacquemont to India ; the liberality \* with which the government was at the expense of his mission ; the reputation of the men who advised the measure ; the talents, the acquirements, and the zeal of the man who was chosen by them to carry it into effect ; the cordiality with which Great Britain and France co-operated upon the occasion ; the frankness and good sense with which M. Jacquemont himself conciliated the public functionaries in England and in India ; the ardour with which he prosecuted his undertaking ; the intrepidity with which he encountered and overcame every difficulty ; the disinterestedness with which he sacrificed his comfort and his health to the performance of his duty ; the calmness and the resignation with which he met his premature death at Bombay, and the universal regret which must be felt for his loss by every man of science in France, in England, and in India, are circumstances which must render every fact connected with the life of such a

---

\* We cannot say much in favour of this liberality. The allowance made to Jacquemont was so small, that without the presents from Runjeet Sing and other native princes, and the assistance afforded him by the different governments in India, it is doubtful whether he would have been able to accomplish the object of his mission.—ED.

man interesting to the public, and peculiarly gratifying to the friends of science throughout Europe.

“I am, dear sir, yours very faithfully,

“ALEXANDER JOHNSTON.”

We have only to add that the documents, so kindly sent by Sir Alexander Johnston, were not used in the French edition of Jacquemont's letters. It was intended to insert them in a memoir of the author, to be prefixed to the correspondence; but from some mismanagement of the editor, it was not ready when it should have been. The curiosity and interest of the French public had been highly excited, and the demand for the work was so urgent, that there was not time to prepare the memoir, which was necessarily omitted. It is a question whether, in any future edition, this omission will be supplied; for the letters alone are said to excite sufficient interest without any such addition. But this is a question to be settled between the French public and the publisher.

*London, September 12th, 1834.*