

III. OBITUARY NOTICES.

Sir James Macnabb Campbell, K.C.I.E.

A large circle of friends, both in Europe and in India, will have heard, with more than ordinary sorrow, of the death of Sir James Macnabb Campbell, K.C.I.E., on the 26th May last, at his residence, Achnashie, Rosneath, N.B.

Sir James Campbell was a son of the late Rev. J. M. Campbell, D.D. He was educated at Glasgow, at the Academy and the University; and his attainments as a scholar were, in the course of time, duly recognised by his University, in conferring upon him the degree of D.C.L. He entered the Indian Civil Service in 1869, and was posted to the Bombay Presidency. He served, in the ordinary course, as an Assistant Collector and Magistrate, in the Khandesh and Kolaba districts and at Bombay, from 1870 to 1873. For some months in 1877, he was on famine duty in the Bijapur district,—the Kaladgi district, as it was then called. In 1880, he acted for a time as Municipal Commissioner of Bombay, and as Under-Secretary to Government in the Political, Judicial, and Educational Departments. In 1881, he attained the rank of Collector and District Magistrate, in which capacity, for the most part, he served until 1897, excepting during three periods of absence from India on furlough, at Bombay itself, and in the Panch-Mahals with the additional duties of Political Agent for the Rewa-Kantha State. In 1895 and 1897, he officiated as Commissioner of Customs, Salt, Opium, and Abkari. And finally, in July, 1897, in succession to Major-General Sir William Gatacre, K.C.B., he became Chairman of the Bombay Plague Committee. He left India on furlough in April, 1898. He received his promotion to be substantive Second Grade Commissioner in February, 1900, while he was still on furlough. And, without returning to India, he retired from the Service very shortly

afterwards. He was appointed a Companion of the Indian Empire in January, 1885, and a Knight Commander of the same Order in June, 1897.

Such, in brief outline, were the chief features of his ordinary official career. The great work of his life, however, was done in connection with the official Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency. He was appointed Compiler of the Gazetteer in June, 1873. And he held that office until August, 1884, discharging during part of that period the duties of some additional offices also, as indicated above. His formal appointment as Compiler of the Gazetteer then came to an end. But he still retained the general superintendence of the compilation. And, with the exception of vol. vii, Baroda, and vol. viii, Kathiawar, all the volumes of the series were written and issued, between 1877 and 1901, and for the most part before the end of 1886, under his direction and auspices, as shewn by his signature below the introductory note to each of them. It is difficult to know which to admire most; the monumental character of the work, which consists of twenty-six large volumes, comprising altogether thirty-four parts, of which each is a separate book by itself, containing an enormous amount of information of the most varied and useful kind; or the unremitting energy, and the great tact, with which Sir James Campbell played his part in connection with it. Great tact was necessary; because much of the matter included in these volumes had necessarily to be prepared, subject to direction and revision by the Compiler, by, for the most part, district officials, already sufficiently tasked by their ordinary duties, whose hearty co-operation in this additional labour was largely ensured by the knowledge that they were working for a personal friend who would fully appreciate their results and would not exercise any unnecessary editorial interference with them. And unremitting energy was necessary; because, in addition to checking and, when necessary, recasting the many contributions obtained in the manner indicated above, Sir James Campbell had to write in person a great deal of the

matter included in most of the volumes, particularly in the ethnological divisions. It was the happy combination of the two qualities that enabled Sir James Campbell to carry his task to so successful an end, and to leave behind him a work which reflects honour both upon him and upon all the others, whether official or non-official, who took part in it; for a full list of those others, and for Sir James Campbell's cordial recognition of the value of the work done by them and by the members of his own official establishment, with an account of the whole scheme from its inception to its realisation, reference may be made to the introduction to vol. i, part i; the completion of that volume, which contains the special historical contributions, was wisely deferred as long as possible, and the two parts of which it consists were issued in 1896.

It is in connection with the Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency that the literary achievements of Sir James Macnabb Campbell will be best remembered. It may be added, however, that he found leisure to write an interesting account of the history, from A.D. 1400, of Mandu or Mandogarh, a large deserted town on a hill of the Vindhya range, in the Dhar State, Central India, which was formerly the capital of the Muhammadan kingdom of Malwa; that article was published in vol. xix (1895-1897), pp. 154 to 201, of the Journal of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. And it is further to be remarked that, in 1892 or 1893, his attention became greatly attracted to the subject of Indian demonology; with the result that the volumes of the *Indian Antiquary* from 1894 to 1901 contain a succession of interesting contributions by him, entitled "Notes on the Spirit Basis of Belief and Custom." It would appear that some of the notes of this series are still on hand, unpublished. And it is to be hoped that they have been received in a sufficiently far advanced state for the issue of them to be completed satisfactorily.

It is a pleasure to look back to long and friendly intercourse with Sir James Macnabb Campbell; and to recall the kindly hospitality that used to be dispensed by the

three brothers, John, James, and Robert, at their residence at Breach Candy, Bombay. It is sad to have to realise that excessive work, acting upon a constitution which was never very strong, has ended in the death, at the comparatively early age of fifty-six, of one whose personal qualities had endeared him to so many people, and whose scholarship would, if he had been spared for a longer time and with health and strength, have undoubtedly given us still more matter worthy of perpetuation.

J. F. FLEET.

Dr. F. J. Steingass.

THE distinguished lexicographer Francis Joseph Steingass died early in January of this year. He was not a member of our Society, and he appears to have been a man of retiring habits, but his name is well and favourably known to all students of Persian. His Dictionary is undoubtedly the best we have, and is a most handy and trustworthy work. It is founded upon Richardson, just as Richardson is founded upon Meninski; but Dr. Steingass, while reducing the Arabic portion, has added much valuable matter from the great lexicon of Vullers and from native dictionaries. He is also the author of an Arabic Dictionary, and he translated for the O.T.F. the last twenty-four Assemblies of Ḥarirī, thus completing the work begun by Professor Chenery. He contributed several articles to Hughes' Dictionary of Islam, and among them is an elaborate account of Oriental Writing. He also, as Mr. Hughes has acknowledged in his preface, made a careful revision of the whole work.

Dr. Steingass was born at Frankfort-on-Main on March 16th, 1825, so that when he died he had nearly completed his 78th year. He graduated at the University of Munich, and came to England about thirty years ago. For five years he was Professor of Modern Languages at the Wakefield Grammar School, Birmingham, and he was afterwards a Professor at the Oriental Institute, Woking. It is stated, in an interesting letter in the *Times* of January 13th last,

to which we are indebted for the substance of this notice, that Dr. Steingass was almost entirely self-taught, and that he knew at least fourteen languages. We shall conclude by quoting two interesting remarks from the preface to his Persian Dictionary. One is that Persian is so deeply imbued with Arabic, that sooner or later the student of Persian must become a student of Arabic also. The other is:—"This Dictionary is not and cannot be complete. The complete dictionary of any language has yet to be written. It far exceeds the powers of any single individual, and depends for its realisation on the modest, although imperial, motto, *viribus unitis*. The author's only ambition was to advance the work close to the point at which the practical adoption of this motto, with regard to Persian, becomes a necessity, and should be seriously contemplated by Oriental societies and congresses."

We commend these words, and also some similar remarks of Mr. Blochmann in his "Contributions to Persian Lexicography," J.A.S.B., vol. xxxvii, and of Professor Browne in this Journal, to the consideration of members of Oriental congresses.

H. B.

IV. NOTES AND NEWS.

ADAM'S PEAK (CEYLON) IN 1902. — The history of Adam's Peak (named by the Singhalese Aukanagau, the sky league) is well known, especially from the account in Sir James Emerson Tennant's *Ceylon*, 1860. But as the present condition is very different from the idea one takes from the drawing and plan in that work, it may be of interest to place on record the annexed sketches of the spot as it now is. The pagoda-like canopy (C) is supported on slender columns and open on all sides, and has now two entrances, whilst formerly there was