

- I. Kunos. Turkish popular songs.  
 J. Kunste. Notes on the Sarva-sammata Śikshā.  
 W. Tomaschek. Geography of South Asia.  
 J. Klatt. The date of the poet Māgha.

#### IV. OBITUARY NOTICES.

*Sir E. Colebrooke.*—At the meeting of the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society on December 16, 1889, and at the meeting of the Society held afterwards to discuss certain matters connected with the International Oriental Congresses, was present among us for the last time for 54 years Sir Thomas Edward Colebrooke, Bart., who had repeatedly filled the office of President, and was still our Vice-President, when he died, January 11, 1890. We shall never see his like again, as he was the only surviving son of our Founder, the illustrious scholar Henry Thomas Colebrooke, who died in 1837, and in the Fifth Volume of the first Series of our Journal, 1838, when all the present Council were still at their public schools, appears the first contribution of our lamented friend and Vice-President, who wrote a long and interesting account of the life and labours of his father. It falls to few to enter a learned Society at so early an age, and to take a sympathetic and intelligent interest in it for more than half a century. All those, who listened to his first contributions, have long since passed away. He was our oldest elected member by many years.

Sir Edward was born in Calcutta in 1813. His mother died in 1815, and his father then left India finally, bringing with him his motherless children. His grandfather, Sir George, belonged to a family settled in Kent: he was member for Arundel in three Parliaments, and was Chairman of the Court of Directors. He succeeded to the Baronetcy, which had been conferred in 1759 on his elder brother, with remainder to him. Both his sons went out in the Bengal Civil Service: the elder, Sir James Edward, was Resident at Dehli, and died without issue in 1838. The second son,

Mr. Henry Thomas, was Chief Judge of the Suddur Court of Bengal, and member of the Bengal Council, and out and out the greatest Oriental scholar of his time, both in the originality of his researches, and the soundness and accuracy of his knowledge. His name is revered, and his opinions appealed to, still in the Oriental side of every Continental University.

The subject of this memoir was his third son: both his brothers predeceased their father. He was educated at Eton, and being destined, as a younger son, to the Bengal Civil Service, he was sent to the East India College at Haileybury in Hertfordshire, and arrived in India in 1832. He had acquired a knowledge of Indian languages at the College, and he himself mentions in his Obituary Notice of Mr. Colebrooke, that his father had "been urgent in recommending him to the study of Sanskrit on account of its utility to a member of the Civil Service, but he never expressed the slightest hope, that his son would imitate his example, or turn to Oriental study, except so far as it was connected with professional pursuits. This is not an unusual phenomenon: great scholars rarely have sons, who take the least interest in their fathers' studies, and so entirely is the aptitude for scholarship a personal gift, that few scholars, if any, take the trouble to recommend their sons to qualify themselves. "Poeta nascitur non fit."

In 1836 a great sorrow fell upon Mr. Henry Colebrooke; his eldest son, who had been the companion of his old age, and the sharer of his studies, and his attendant during his long illness, died: and the subject of this memoir, the last of the race, was sent for from India to soothe the closing days of his sorrowing parent, and the great scholar died on March 10, 1837. His elder brother, Sir James Edward Colebrooke, followed him to the grave November 5, 1838, and Sir Thomas Edward succeeded to the family title; twenty years later he married, and is now succeeded by his son, the present Sir Edward Arthur, born in 1861.

For nearly forty years the late Sir Thomas Edward Colebrooke sat in the House of Commons, on the Liberal

side. He represented Taunton from 1842 to 1852, and Lanarkshire from 1857 to 1868, and the Northern Division of that county from that year till 1885. In 1886, as a Liberal Unionist, he contested the seat of North-East Lanarkshire, but was defeated, and his Parliamentary career ended at the age of 72. He was Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire.

A list of his contributions to the pages of our Journal is appended. In addition he published the following works:—

1. Life of Mount Stuart-Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay.
2. Essays. By Henry Thomas Colebrooke. 2 vols. 1837.
3. "The Creeds of India," a pamphlet privately printed in Scotland.
4. "Small Holdings"; it is sadly interesting to record, that he had just sent a fresh edition of this book to the printer on the day that he fell ill.
5. He edited and published a third volume of Elphinstone's India.

His acquaintance with national affairs was great: he was a man of excellent and judicious temperament, and his speeches were always of a thoughtful, well-considered, and suggestive character. On Educational matters he was an authority, and was Chairman of the Endowed Schools and Hospitals Commission for Scotland. Though he came to Scotland a perfect stranger, he conciliated to himself the love and confidence of his constituency in Lanarkshire to the highest degree: his portrait, at their request, was painted for the County Hall, and a copy presented to Lady Colebrooke. We have on the walls of the room of our Society an excellent photograph, which will recall the features of our lost and honoured friend.

Without laying claim to the title of a scholar himself, he occupied the very important position of a scholarly statesman, who from his earliest days to the last month of his life, sympathized with Oriental scholars, and with research in every branch of the subject. He was worthy of the great name among scholars which he inherited. Some years ago I went down to the House of Commons with Professor

Whitney of Newhaven, United States, and meeting Sir Edward Colebrooke, I delighted the American Professor by presenting him to the son of the great old scholar, who revealed the learning of the Indians to Europe, and whose name was a household word to every student of Sanskrit.

As an illustration of his kindly feeling to the Royal Asiatic Society, it may be mentioned, that though he had compounded for his subscription years before, yet, when the Society twenty years ago fell into financial trouble, he volunteered to become again a subscribing member, and continued so to the end. He was constant in his attendance at the Council, taking a lively interest in our welfare; when the question was discussed of the union of this Society with the new Imperial Institute, Sir Edward took the lead in the negotiations. If his style of elocution, and indeed of conversation, was rather dry and restrained, yet those, who were privileged to know him, were confident of his kindly and benevolent nature; and his stately form and thoughtful countenance will long be missed. There is but one surviving representative of the great men, who made the Royal Asiatic Society illustrious for so many years, Sir Henry Rawlinson, and the conduct of affairs has passed into the hands of a younger generation.

Jan. 1890.

R. N. C.

Elected 1836. Paid Resident Member's Composition. Renewed his contribution as a Resident Member from 1861 to 1890. Appears first on Council 1842-44. Off for one Session. On again. Only off by rotation till 1861, when he was elected Vice-President. President 1864-6. Vice-President 1867-74. President 1875-7. Vice-President 1878-80. President 1881 for that year (1881) only.

*Contributions to Journal of R.A.S.*

Memoir of Mountstuart Elphinstone. XXVIII. p. 221, *o.s.*

Note on Professor Whitney's Article. I. p. 332, *n.s.*

"On Imperial and other Titles." IX. p. 314, *n.s.*

"On the Proper Names of Muhammadans." XI. p. 171, *n.s.*