

- Kaufmann (D.). Ein Responsum des Gaons R. Hāja über Gottes Vorherwissen und die Dauer des menschlichen Lebens.
 Fischer (A.). Verbesserungen und Nachträge zu R. Geyer's Aus b. Haḡar.
 Schroeder (L. v.). Das Kāṭhaka.
 Oldenberg (H.). Zu Mythologie und Cultus des Veda.
 Socin (A.). Referat über die Transcriptionsfrage.

2. JOURNAL ASIATIQUE. N.S. Tome v. No. 1.

- Goeje (J. de). La fin de l'empire des Carmathes du Bahrain.
 Feér (L.). Le Chaddanta-Jātaka.
 Huart (Clément). La prière canonique musulmane, poème didactique en langue kurde.
 Chabot (J. B.). Éloge du patriarche nestorien Mar Denha 1^{er} par le moine Jean.
 Bourdais (P.). Dates sur la sphère céleste des Chaldéo-Assyriens.
 Vinson (J.). L'écriture arabe appliquée aux langues dravidiennes.

No. 2.

- Feér (L.). Le Chaddanta-Jātaka (fin).
 Mayer-Lambert (Mons.). L'Élif wesla.
 Ferté (Mons.). Notice sur le poète persan Enveri, suivie d'un extrait de ses Odes.
 Sauvaire (H.). Description de Damas (suite).
 Karppe (S.). Quelques mots d'astrologie talmudique.

III. OBITUARY NOTICE.

Sir Henry Rawlinson, Bart.—As it is understood that a Biography of our Late Director and ex-President will be shortly published by a most competent authority, this notice will be restricted to the relations of the deceased with this Society, and his linguistic, and archæological, labours. We have, indeed, lost the most illustrious of our members, who has left an imperishable memory in our Journal.

The Council has decided not to fill up the post of Director, occupied in succession by Colebroke, Hayman Wilson, and Rawlinson, till someone worthy to rank with these heroes appears.

Sir Henry Rawlinson went out to India round the Cape in 1827, in the same ship with Sir John Malcolm, Governor of Bombay. His first period of employment in Persia was from 1833 to 1839. He was at Cabúl, and Candahár in Afghanistan during the first Afghan war, in 1841-1842. He was at Calcutta in the Autumn of 1843, and proceeded thence to his new appointment of Political Agent at Baghdad, in Turkish Arabia. We published his account of the Inscriptions of Behistún in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* in 1846, before he became a member of the Society.

He was elected a Member of this Society in 1847, and Director in 1862, which office he held by annual re-election, up to the date of his death, for 33 years. He was President of the Society from 1878 to May, 1881. He contributed to the *Journal* eight papers of first-rate importance; but they are but a small portion of his literary achievements, as a year and a half before his death he forwarded to me a copy of a catalogue of his writings prepared by Professor Paul Haupt, and printed in the United States, comprising 131 separate items; and in his letter to my address dated Sept. 6th, 1893, he points out, that two important papers have been omitted from that Catalogue. Few have left such a roll of continuous literary activity.

It must be recollected, that he was not a secluded Student, or the Professor of a University, or one, who closed an active career in learned labour: from the date of his landing in India to the day of his death, a period of sixty-eight years, he was in active service, as a soldier of the Indian Army, an organizer of new armies in Persia, a fighting member of a successful garrison at Candahár in Afghanistan, a Political Agent, Consul-General, and Minister Plenipotentiary, in the Empire of Turkey and Kingdom of Persia, a Member of Parliament, a Member of the Council

of India, President, Councillor, and Member of Learned Societies, Trustee of the British Museum; in the year 1839, while the writer of this Notice was Captain of Eton College, he had obtained the medal of the Geographical Society; he was a constant writer and speaker almost to his last years. He was Interpreter of his Regiment in Bombay at the age of nineteen, and when he was of the age of 83 the writer of this Notice felt honoured in being permitted to listen to his remarks on linguistic subjects, and to look over the pile of Manuscript notebooks, which he had accumulated from year to year, for he had the wisdom to record at once scraps of knowledge, which he gathered orally, to note the references to passages of printed volumes, when he came upon something worth referring to hereafter, and still more to record the points, on which he required more light. It is only by keeping such notebooks for "Notanda, Legenda, Quærenda" that in this busy Epoch an all-round knowledge can be maintained, and our deceased friend was essentially a thoughtful man, one ready to impart from his fulness to others: it must have been a strain to him to keep abreast with the ever-advancing tide of expanding knowledge of his favourite subjects, and it is not to be wondered at, that an octogenarian man did not succeed in achieving a task, to which a man in his prime, betwixt the age of 45 and 65, does not always succeed.

In the Meetings between 1860 and 1880 scarcely one took place without the President asking Sir Henry Rawlinson to make a communication on the subject of Cuneiform Research, or, if Sir Henry were himself President, his undertaking to communicate the last discovery: those were days, when we were contented with the drops of the coming shower; we have the whole subject now at our disposal. It may be confidently asserted, that in the History of the World no greater and more unexpected revelation was made of buried and forgotten literary knowledge, than that of the Inscriptions of Persia and Mesopotamia, and Sir Henry Rawlinson was the leader of that great movement; he set the ball rolling.

Grotefend had indeed been the advance-guard: he died in 1853. Professor Burnouf died in 1852 at the age of only 51: if he had lived longer, the world would have been wiser. Their material was restricted to Persepolis, but Burnouf's knowledge of Asiatic languages enabled him to leave hints, which have been valuable for those, who came after him: he did not live long enough to see the full glories of the Tablets at Behistún, copied by Sir H. Rawlinson, consisting of Inscriptions in three languages, Persian, Assyrian, and Median, unfolded. Professor Lassen died in 1876: he had published at Bonn, in Germany, in 1836, his Essay "Die alt-persischen Keil-Inschriften" one month earlier than his friend Burnouf's "Memoire sur deux Inscriptions Cuneiformes" in Paris. They were both Scholars of the highest eminence, and the Memoir by Sir Henry Rawlinson on the great Inscriptions of Behistún was not received by our Society till 1839, but the whole of it had been drawn up by the Soldier-Political in his isolated residence at Kermanshah, on the frontier of Persia, in ignorance of what had been done in the way of Cuneiform interpretation two years previously in Europe. Sir Henry was not a Scholar of the type of the French and German University Scholars: he was a traveller, explorer, decipherer, and by the aid of his own genius an independent interpreter: he told me once, that it was his familiarity with some of the rural dialects of Persia, that enabled him to grapple with the Old-Persian of the time of Darius.

I find in my Journals of 1843, that on the 26th of September of that year I was invited at Calcutta by Mr. Thomason, Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to meet Major Rawlinson on his road to Baghdad to take up his office of Political Agent in Turkish Arabia: I remember his conversation, as he asked me, then studying Sanskrit in the College of Fort William, several intricate questions on Sanskrit Grammar, explaining that he was going to try to interpret some Old-Persian Inscriptions at Behistún. So entirely was he in

advance of his Epoch, that neither I, nor any of the company, understood what he was after, and it was not till several years had passed away, and the troubles of the Sikh and Panjab wars of 1845–46 and 1849 were over, and peace had been restored to my Province, that I understood, what was meant by Major Rawlinson's plan of copying and translating Old-Persian Inscriptions, and the word Cuneiform first became to me an object of interest, which it has never ceased to be for more than forty years. All the romance of these discoveries has become mere History now to the younger generation, but the secret, concealed so many years, was unrolled before the very eyes of the few older survivors of the old generation: the world knows the secret now, which the Greek and Roman never knew.

*Artem, quæ latuit Græcos, latuitque Latinos,
Nostrorum sollers extulit ingenium.*

Three other honoured names connect themselves with that of Sir Henry Rawlinson; the bearers of those names are all dead, and their obituary notices appear in the Journal of our Society: Edwin Norris, for thirty-five years Assistant-Honorary Secretary and Honorary Librarian of this Society: he carried through the Press the important Memoirs of the absent discoverer and decipherer, and became one of the chief authorities in Cuneiform Philology; he died in 1872, having translated the third, or Median, Tablet of Behistún. Dr. Hincks, an Irish Clergyman, exhibited a wonderful aptitude for decipherment, and materially assisted the progress of the discovery by his contributions to our Journal: he died in 1866. Mr. Henry Talbot, a private gentleman, greatly advanced the study by a series of papers in this Journal, and died in 1877.

It is to a certain extent a misfortune to live too long after having made in early life a great discovery; for knowledge advances, and leaves the original discoverer far

in the rear. At the Meeting of this Society on the 12th of March, our present President, Lord Reay, drew attention to the great loss, which we had suffered: "It was impossible," he said, "to exaggerate the importance for the history of the development of Oriental ideas and institutions, of the magnificent work of the decipherment of the tablet at Behistún, and it was a matter of pride to the Society, that the results of his remarkable discoveries were given to the world through the medium of the Society's Journal."

The President of the Royal Geographical Society, at a Meeting of that Society on the previous day, had expressed his regret at the loss of that Society also, mentioning that Sir Henry Rawlinson had received the gold medal fifty-five years before, and had been a Fellow more than fifty years. He had filled the post of President of both Societies: we had no medal to grant him, or we should certainly have given it to him. Sir Frederick Goldsmid has inserted an obituary notice in the April number of the Geographical Journal, detailing the Services, which the deceased had rendered to Geography. In Germany, Sir Henry Rawlinson's claims to be regarded as the first decipherer of the Cuneiform have always been allowed without hesitation, notwithstanding the labours of Lassen and others in the same field. My friend Henri Cordier, Professor of Chinese at Paris, and a Honorary Member of our Society, has forwarded to me a printed copy of the tribute paid by him at a Meeting of La Société de Géographie at Paris, and he quotes the opinion of Professor Jules Oppert, of the College of France, extremely laudatory of the services of Sir Henry, of which I quote the concluding lines: "Les jeunes allemands, et anglais, feignent de ne pas le connaître: un anglais me disait même, qu'il n'avait jamais lu une ligne de Sir Henry Rawlinson. Je lui répondis: 'I supposed just so; because if you had read them, your papers would be less imperfect than they are.'"

Sir Henry was one of the two colleagues of his brother, the Rev. G. Rawlinson, Canon of Canterbury, in his Edition

of the *History of Herodotus*, published in 1858: the Author in his Preface says, that "Sir Henry exercised a general supervision over the Oriental portion of the work, and lent his aid throughout to all that concerned the Geography, Ethnology, and History, of the Eastern Nations: without this assistance the Author would not have undertaken the work."

Sir Henry Rawlinson was a knight of the Prussian Order of Merit; associate member of the Academy at Paris; member of the Academy at Munich; Hon. D.C.L. Oxford; Hon. LL.D. Cambridge and Edinburgh; D.L. of London; he received the Grand Cross of the Bath about five years, and he was made a Baronet about three years, before his death. He well deserved every honour that he obtained, but his case is but another illustration of the neglect shown by the British Government to literary merits, upon which I commented in the obituary of another great veteran Scholar of the same Epoch, Brian Hodgson. Sir Henry Rawlinson's career in India did not exceed five years as a Regimental Officer: when he left India for Persia in 1832 he never returned to work in that country, though in 1843 he passed through Northern India on his way to take up his new employment in Turkish Arabia: the honours, which he received from the State, were in return for his great political services in Central Asia, and administrative services in Great Britain; had he never unveiled the secret of the Cuneiform Script, he would have received, and deservedly received, the same honours. Brian Hodgson did a work as great for the languages of India, and the Buddhist Religion, and received nothing from his country, though France was not behindhand in conferring honours on him also; and the Asiatic Society can truly say, that it is not likely ever to have on its lists men who are as illustrious, nor could it wish to have men more illustrious, than these two departed worthies: their portraits adorn the walls of the rooms of the Society, and remind a younger generation of what Genius and Industry can achieve.

The following is a list of Sir Henry's contributions to

our Journal: they are no ordinary papers: some oral remarks are added:—

		Vol.	Page.	
1846	o.s.	IX	v	The discoveries of Major Rawlinson are announced to the Society.
„	„	X	—	Persian Cuneiform Inscriptions at Behistún deciphered and translated, with a memoir on Cuneiform in general: the whole volume of 370 pages.
1850	„	XI	—	An appendix to the foregoing, consisting of 192 pages.
„	„	XII	401	On the Inscriptions of Assyria and Babylonia, 82 pages.
1853	„	XIV	—	Babylonian Cuneiform Inscriptions at Behistún: the whole volume 150 pages.
1855	„	XV	215	Notes on early history of Babylonia, 40 pages.
„	„	„	398	On the orthography of Royal Names of Assyrian and Babylonian history, 4 pages.
1861	„	XVIII	1	On the Birs Nimrúd Inscription, 34 pages.
„	„	„	150	Comparative translation of Inscription of Tiglath Pileser with three other Scholars, 70 pages.
1865	n.s.	I	187	Bilingual readings, Cuneiform and Phœnician: notes on tablets in the British Museum containing bilingual legends, Assyrian and Phœnician, 60 pages.
1867	„	III	296	Note on Pai Kuli.
1873	„	IX	xlviii	Points out the value of George Smith's recent researches.
1875	„	XI	21	On the prevalence of the Scythic element in Media.
1876	„	XII	70	Note on a newly-discovered clay cylinder of Cyrus the Great.
1877	„	XIII	41	Statement with regard to recent researches of Mr. Rassam.
1879	„	XV	371	Identification of the term Saptá Sindhu as meaning the seven head streams of the Oxus.

To this enumeration must be added the reports on progress of Cuneiform interpretation made at our Meetings as above described. I think that it is creditable to those,

who at that time had the control of our Journal, that they spared no expense to carry out Sir Henry's wishes, and, indeed, sometimes volumes of the Journal fell into arrears from the delay arising in getting the material ready for the Press, or in completing an essay, a portion of which was already in type.

In the year 1873 the Royal Asiatic Society kept its first half-century Jubilee, and in the Calcutta Review of that year I described at length the work, which it had accomplished, and I venture to quote the following lines written twenty-two years ago :

“ In the year 1844 Sir H. Rawlinson had made copies of
 “ the Cuneiform Inscriptions of Persepolis, and had solved
 “ the great problem, giving new life to the decrees of King
 “ Darius after a slumber of more than 2000 years. The
 “ Asiatic Society lent its countenance and influence, and
 “ opened its purse liberally, to the support of this great
 “ discovery : the Journals of the Society suddenly acquired
 “ a new interest, which was increased a hundredfold, when
 “ Nineveh and Babylon disclosed their long-buried
 “ treasures, the literature, language, and history of a period
 “ separated from the present era by twenty-five centuries :
 “ it was then (1849) that the Society became the centre
 “ of a great literary movement, and their publications
 “ were subsidized by a National grant ; it was then that
 “ the greatest and most eminent men, headed by the Prince
 “ Consort, attended at our Meetings, and tourists abroad
 “ found that a copy of the Journal, unfolding the wonderful
 “ Cuneiform discoveries, was the most acceptable present
 “ in the scientific world at foreign Capitals. In heading
 “ this movement the Society acted as if by inspiration,
 “ as there was for a long time a great wave of incredulity
 “ to resist, and Sir Henry Rawlinson has always gratefully
 “ acknowledged the debt, which he owed to his earliest
 “ supporters, and styled himself their *alumnus*.”

Another characteristic of our departed friend was that, like M. Waddington of Paris, and Baron Kremer of Vienna, he attracted to the study of Oriental Languages and

Archæology a fashion and popularity : he was at home in the Camp, the Court, the Council Chamber, and the Senate, as well as in the Public Library, the British Museum, and amidst his books and notes in his own study. I have during the last twenty years attended the International Oriental Congresses at all the Capitals of Europe, and have thus made the acquaintance of nearly every Oriental Scholar in Europe : some of them were learned men indeed, but quaint in appearance, and in mode of utterance as narrow-minded and limited in their range of knowledge as specialists only can be : it was difficult for an experienced brain-picker to extract anything out of some, who were mere professorial recluses in spectacles ; but in conversation Sir Henry Rawlinson, when he found himself amidst kindred spirits, passed readily, and gaily, and instructively, from a discussion on the policy of the Shah of Persia, or the Amir of Afghanistan, or from some geographical detail regarding the region of the River Oxus, to the intricacy of the translation of a Cuneiform word or sentence, whether Semitic, or Old-Persian, or Akkadian, or the probable date and affinity of a new variety of Alphabetic Script lately discovered in Arabia. This was a great and special gift almost peculiar to himself, which rendered his society so delightful and profitable. In looking round the circle of my daily diminishing contemporaries, or of my senior fellow-labourers, I know of no one like unto him : it is an honour, a profit, and a joy, to have known him : each right-minded student pays a lasting homage to the storehouse, from which, either through the channel of word of mouth, or of printed page, he has derived valuable contributions to his own ever-increasing stock of knowledge.

May 25th, 1895.

ROBERT CUST,

Hon. Sec. of Royal Asiatic Society.