

OBITUARY NOTICES

The Right Hon. Sir E. M. Satow, G.C.M.G.

By the death of the Right Honourable Sir Ernest Mason Satow, G.C.M.G., which occurred on the 26th August last at Ottery St. Mary, Devon, the Royal Asiatic Society has lost one of its most distinguished Honorary Members who enjoyed world-wide fame as a great Far-Eastern Diplomatist and the highest reputation for his exceptional knowledge of the history, language, and literature of Japan.

Sir Ernest was born on the 30th June, 1843, so had reached the ripe age of 86. He was educated at Mill Hill School and University College, London, and in 1861 was appointed a Student Interpreter in H.M. Consular Service in Japan at the early age of 18. Having spent the first six months at Peking in the study of Chinese, he arrived in Japan at a most critical time in her history when the authority of the Shogun, commonly known as the Tycoon, which had been pre-eminent for centuries in the administration of the affairs of the Island Kingdom, was waning and the party of the Mikado was beginning to reassert the rights of the Emperor to real supremacy in the Empire. At this time Sir Harry Parkes was our Minister in Japan, having been appointed to that important post when only 38 years of age, and Lord Redesdale, then Mr. Mitford, was an attaché from the Foreign Office in the British Legation and was closely associated with Sir Ernest. In his interesting Memoirs, which give such a vivid, lively, and interesting account of the stirring times in which Sir Harry, Sir Ernest, and he played such an important part, frequently at the risk of their lives, he says: "Parkes had at his elbow a man of extraordinary ability in the person of Satow. He it was who . . . by an accurate study of Japanese customs and traditions realized and gave true value to the position of the Shogun, showing that the Mikado alone was the sovereign of Japan. Nor was

this all. His really intimate knowledge of the language, combined with great tact and transparent honesty, had enabled him to establish friendly relations with most of the leading men in the country; thus, young as he was, achieving a position which was of incalculable advantage to his chief." And further he states: "I was nominally the senior and had to draw up the reports of our proceedings, but I may say once for all that his (Satow's) was the brain which was responsible for the work which I recorded. It is difficult to exaggerate the services which he rendered in very critical times and it is right that this should not be forgotten." The part that Sir Ernest played during this time of storm and stress in Japan commenced in 1863 when Kagoshima was bombarded on account of the Richardson affair and he accompanied the British Chargé d'Affaires on board H.M.S. *Argus*. He was also present in the following years at the destruction of the Shimonoseki Forts. The friendly relations which were subsequently established between the Legation and the leaders of the two Clans, which were responsible for those hostilities and which ultimately played the most important part in depriving the Shogun of his authority and re-establishing the power of the Mikado, were chiefly due to the special knowledge possessed by Sir Ernest which enabled him to explain the true situation to his chief, Sir Harry Parkes, who in his turn was able to prevent any attempt at foreign intervention by uniting the representatives of the various foreign powers in a policy of neutrality. In 1868, the year which saw the final triumph of the Mikado's party over that of the Shogun, Sir Ernest was appointed Japanese Secretary to the Legation and remained in that post till 1884, when he was promoted to be Agent and Consul General at Bangkok and Minister Resident in 1885. He was called to the Bar in 1887 and in 1888 was transferred to Montevideo as Minister Resident. In 1893 he was promoted to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Morocco. He received the honour of K.C.M.G. in 1895, having been made a C.M.G. in

1883, and in May, 1895, he was appointed British Minister in Japan. He found that country much changed from the Japan with which he had been first acquainted. She had just succeeded in defeating China, but owing to the intervention of Russia, Germany, and France, she had been forced to hand back to China Port Arthur and the Kuantung Peninsula. Great Britain took no part in that intervention and was also the first of the European powers to agree to Treaty Revision. He therefore found Japan well disposed towards his own country, and by his ability and tact he was able to still further promote the good feeling that existed and to carry to a successful issue in the summer of 1899 the new arrangements under the revised Treaty, according to which British subjects came under Japanese jurisdiction and extra-territoriality was abolished. In October, 1900, Sir Ernest was transferred to Peking as Envoy Extraordinary and High Commissioner. The Boxer trouble had been suppressed but had left behind it many difficult problems which had to be solved by the representatives of the various Powers at Peking. It was fortunate that Great Britain had at this critical time a representative who was held in such high esteem and whose prestige carried such weight, for it is generally recognized that to his influence, moderation, and advice was in no small measure due the Peace Protocol of the 14th January, 1901.

He was advanced to G.C.M.G. in 1902, an honour which was indeed fully deserved, and in 1906 he retired from Peking, forty-five years after his first visit to it as a Student Interpreter in 1861.

On his return to England he was sworn a Privy Councillor in July, 1906, and in October of the same year he was appointed a British Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague and took part in the Second Peace Conference there in 1907 as one of the British Plenipotentiaries. Honorary degrees, the D.C.L. of Oxford, the LL.D. of Cambridge, the Ph.D. of Marburg, and Honorary Membership of the

Royal Asiatic Society were conferred on him. He was a great scholar, a devoted student, a lover of books, and an enthusiastic gardener. He was the author or editor of several valuable works dealing with the Far East and a contributor of scholarly articles to the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Japan* and the *Transactions* of other learned Societies. He edited the first and second editions of Murray's *Handbook to Japan*, being assisted by Lieut. A. G. Hawes and in collaboration with M. Ishibashi compiled an English-Japanese Dictionary. He edited for the Hakluyt Society *The Voyage of Captain John Saris to Japan in 1613*; in 1917 he published his *Guide to Diplomatic Practice*, a work distinguished by its learning and research, and was the author of *A Diplomat in Japan, 1921*. When leaving Morocco for Japan in 1895, he presented the Society's Library with a large number, about one hundred, rare and valuable books, mostly of travel. Bishop Gore in a letter to *The Times* of 30th August last states that "he was a scholar of rare distinction, not in Japanese only but in Latin, Italian, and Spanish, and his knowledge of English literature was wide and discriminating. He was also a deeply religious man with a great understanding of the principles of the religious life both in the general and the technical sense. The relation of the one to the other was simply but beautifully expressed in the preface he wrote to Mother Agnes Mason's translation of St. Theresa's *Foundations*. All those who enjoyed his friendship will feel that they have lost a unique privilege. It was characteristic of his sympathy with the various peoples among whom he served in his diplomatic career that he once remarked to me that 'no diplomat should be left for long in any foreign country, for, if he is a decent fellow, he very soon understands their point of view so well as to forget what he is there to represent.'"

And the late Bishop Paget of Oxford in a letter to his son, written on the 19th July, 1911, and which appears in his *Life*, states: "He (Sir Ernest Satow) is quite delightful—a

diplomatist of the very best type, strong, able, quiet, cultivated, humorous, with great and wide experience. I think I've never met anyone more really attractive."

The writer enjoyed the privilege of his friendship and will always remember the kind hospitality he received from him at Peking at a time when he was busy dealing with the vexed problems that arose after the Boxer troubles. He was a most hospitable and kindly host, whose conversation was full of charm and interest though his natural modesty made him refrain from making himself appear in any way the protagonist in the stirring incidents in which he had played the chief part, and which he could so graphically describe. His excellent personal qualities and his eminence as a scholar and a diplomat will always make the name of Satow one that will be held in the highest esteem by those who know what manner of man he was and realize how devotedly and successfully he served his country.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART.

George Rusby Kaye

Kaye was born in Leicester in 1866 and educated at Wyggeston Grammar School there, and at St. Mark's College, Chelsea. He went to India first to take a mastership at Bishop Cotton School, Simla, and was subsequently appointed Headmaster of the Boys' High School, Allahabad, and afterwards of the Byculla Boys' School, Bombay. From there he went to Lucknow as Vice-Principal of the Government Training College, and in 1903 to Allahabad in a similar capacity. Shortly afterwards he was transferred to the Bureau of Education in Simla, where he began and carried on until his retirement in 1923 the series of publications on Indian mathematics and astronomy which constituted his life's work. His first articles were published in the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* "(Notes on Indian Mathematics: I Arithmetical Notation, II Āryabhata," in