

2. M. Grünbaum. On Schlechta-Wssehrd's edition of Firdusi's Jussuf and Suleicha.

3. R. Otto Francke. Abbreviated compounds in Sanskrit and Pali and the Avesta.

4. O. Böhtlingk. Conjectural Emendations of the Āsurī-kalpa.

5. O. Böhtlingk and H. Pischel. The Goat and the Knife.

2. JOURNAL ASIATIQUE.

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The Annual Report by M. James Darmesteter.

III. OBITUARY NOTICES.

Sir Richard Burton.—It is with sorrow that we record the disappearance from the list of our members of a name well known to all. The Society has lost a remarkable personality and many of us a good friend. Sir Richard Burton was but a few days younger than the friend, whose sad duty it is to pen his obituary notice. He was born March 19, 1821, at Barham House, Herts, the son of a British officer of a Westmoreland family, who had for two generations migrated to Ireland. He spent many of his boyish years on the Continent, and thus developed his linguistic gifts. In 1840 he was entered at Trinity College, Oxford, and kept some terms, but the Collegiate atmosphere did not suit his temperament, and in 1842 he sailed for India as a military cadet, and was posted in October of the same year as an ensign of the 18th Regiment, Bombay Native Infantry, and joined it at Baroda. He soon mastered the Hindustāni language, and published Grammatical Notes rather than Grammars in Pastu and Balúchi, and in his History of Sindh (1851) he supplies a vocabulary spoken by the Sidi, African labourers, who resort to India to find employment on the steamers: in those days nothing was known of the mysterious country of East Africa, which Burton himself was destined to reveal to the world.

Until in 1872 he settled down (as far as Burton could settle down anywhere) as British Consul at Trieste, the thirty years that elapsed after his landing in India was one uninterrupted series of exploring expeditions and charming descriptive volumes. At a public meeting years ago I quoted a familiar line of Virgil to him as descriptive of him :

“ Quæ regio in terris vestri non plena laboris ? ”

In 1851 he published his volume on Sindh, and in the same year a volume on ‘Goa and the Blue Mountains.’ In 1852 he made his way to Mekka and Medina, in Arabia, in the disguise of a Mahometan : in 1854, in disguise, he penetrated into Somáli-land on the eastern horn of Africa, and worked his way to Harar. The volume of ‘Footsteps in East Africa’ was published in 1856. In June, 1857, under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society, with his companion Speke, he left Zanzibar on his memorable expedition, which eventuated in the discovery of the Lakes Tanganyika and Victoria Nyanza. This was one of the most notable expeditions into Africa : it took place before Livingstone had appeared on the field, long before the name of Henry Stanley had been heard of. He received in 1859 the Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society, and established a reputation, which can never be forgotten.

In 1860 he visited the Salt Lake City in North America, and wrote his ‘City of the Saints.’ In 1861 he married, and took his bride to the Island of Fernando Po, on the West Coast of Africa, where he had been appointed Consul. During his three years’ stay he explored the coast region of the Bay of Biafra, and went on a mission to the King of Dahomey, recording his proceedings in two separate volumes. In 1865 he went as British Consul to Sao Paulo in the Brazils in South America, and according to his wont he explored that empire, crossed the Continent to Chili and Peru, returned by the Straits of Mágellan, and published a volume, ‘The Highlands of Brazil,’ 1869.

He was transferred from the Brazils to Damascus in that year, and made an exploration of Syria. In 1871 he visited the Island of Iceland, and published an elaborate work in

1872, after which he subsided into the Consulate of Trieste. Something, however, of the old spirit clung to him after he had completed his half century, for in 1876 and 1877 he explored the old mines in Midian, publishing two volumes; and in 1882 he made an expedition into the interior of the Gold Coast in Western Africa to prospect mines, and to publish the account for the benefit of others, for he seems never personally to have reaped any advantage from his labours, labours which at last broke down his hardy constitution.

The old traveller's perambulations had come to an end: many of his friends imagined that he was entitled to some "solatium" in his old age, some way made for the veteran explorer to spend his last years at home in the midst of his friends. He was made a K.C.M.G. in 1886, and yet his nose was kept to the grinding stone at Trieste. He had no friends at Court, and had got hopelessly out of the groove of Service-Pensions. No tales of blood disfigure the narratives of his explorations: on his death-bed he could have recalled to his recollection no lives of poor Africans or Asiatics taken away by his orders, no villages in any part of the world plundered. We have since 1870 entered into a new epoch of African exploration, and the track of the explorer is now marked by blood, cruelty, and discredit to the English name: of such things Burton and his contemporaries Speke and Grant were incapable, and there are some of the younger travellers also who have brought home clean hands and unsullied reputations.

Idleness with Burton meant unhappiness, and when not engaged in exploration, his facile pen and his fertile brain were engaged in translations: he has left two monumental works, a translation of the poem of the Portuguese poet Camoens, with important notes, and a literal translation of a complete copy of the Arabian Nights Entertainment from an Arabic uncastigated manuscript. Some may perhaps be of opinion that many pages restored by the conscientious hand of Burton might well have remained in the obscurity to which the early translators had consigned them, for many

of the most pleasant stories, and some of the most amiable characters, are disfigured by disgusting details, which totally destroy the charm of those most charming romances. Many other memoirs and papers came from his busy and accomplished pen : if quaint, still learned : if untenable in the eyes of more cautious critics, still ingenious and scholarly, indicating an amount of wide observation attained by few others, and a store of acquired knowledge which must be envied by all.

Nov. 1890.

R. N. C.

IV. NOTES AND NEWS.

Professor Kielhorn, of Göttingen, writes as follows to the *Academy* :

SANSKRIT PLAYS PRESERVED AS INSCRIPTIONS.

Göttingen : Jan. 3, 1891.

Sanskrit scholars will be interested to learn that among the papers of General Sir A. Cunningham, sent to me by Mr. Fleet, I have found rubbings of two unique stone inscriptions, the originals of which are at the famous Arhaidin-kâ Jhonpra at Ajmere, Râjputânâ. For these inscriptions contain large portions of two unknown plays, by the King Vigharâjâdeva, of Sâkambharî, whose Delhi Siwâlik pillar inscriptions I re-edited last year in the *Indian Antiquary*. A full account of the inscriptions, together with the texts thus discovered, will be published in the same journal. Here I would only state that one of the inscriptions gives a large part of the fifth act of a play called "Harakelinâtaka," in which the royal author has evidently followed Bhâravi's "Kirâtârjunîya"; and the other, the end of the third act and a large portion of the fourth act of another play, which has reference to Vigharâjâdeva's wars with the Muhammadan invaders of India. It is clear that the king had both plays carefully engraved and put up in public;