

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY MEETING

OF THE SOCIETY,

HELD ON THE 11TH OF MAY, 1844,

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF AUCKLAND,

PRESIDENT,

IN THE CHAIR.

THE HONORARY SECRETARY read the Annual Report of the Council, as follows:—

The Council of the Royal Asiatic Society have the satisfaction of congratulating the Meeting on the increasing prosperity of the Society, both in respect of the accession of Members, and the improvement of its finances. The number of elections in the past year has exceeded that of any previous year since 1839; and consists of fourteen contributing*, and two Honorary Members†.

Although the loss by death and retirement exceeds numerically the gain by accession, (but only to the extent of five); yet the increase in the number of contributing members is a subject of congratulation, and from this improvement the Council derive a confident hope that the advantages which the Society possesses for the collection and diffusion of knowledge relative to Asia are more widely appreciated, and will be more extensively drawn forth.

* *Contributing Members*.—J. R. Colvin, Esq., Lieut. C. J. Cruttenden, Right Hon. Lord Elphinstone, Professor Forbes Falconer, Capt. Septimus Hart, J. A. St. John, Esq., Capt. Granville Loch, Major J. A. Moore, Joseph Mussabini, Esq., Lieut. Col. J. Outram, C.B., Henry Thoby Prinsep, Esq., Right Honorable Sir Edward Ryan, Edmund Smith, Esq., General E. Wyatt.

† *Honorary Members*.—Monsieur E. Biot, Hon. F. W. A. Bruce.

1844.]

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The following Members have died since the last Anniversary Meeting :—

Resident and Non-Resident Members.

George Arbuthnot, Esq.	Maj.-Gen. Sir Joseph O'Halloran.
Thomas H. Baber, Esq.	The Hon. George Turnour.
J. C. C. Sutherland, Esq.	The Right Hon. Lord Wallace.
William Stanley Clarke, Esq.	C. J. Whatman, Esq.
John Morice, Esq.	Arthur Mills Raymond, Esq.

Honorary Members.

Major C. P. J. Elout.	The Hon. J. R. Morrison.
Professor Ippolito Rosellini.	

Members who have retired.

Alexander S. Finlay, Esq.	Lieut.-Col. R. King.
G. F. Travers, Esq.	Major-General Evans.
Capt. W. Dunn.	James Johnstone, Esq.

Members whose names have been removed under the provisions of Article LIII. of the Regulations.

Col. Hugh Percy Davison.	Thomas Miln, Esq.
Peter Auber, Esq.	

Among the distinguished Members of whom the Society has been deprived by death, the names of Professor Rosellini, the Hon. J. Robert Morrison, Mr. J. Colebrooke Sutherland, Major Elout, and the Hon. George Turnour, are entitled to particular notice.

IPPOLITO ROSELLINI was Professor of Oriental Languages and Antiquities at the University of Pisa. His acquaintance with Egyptian Antiquities and the Coptic Language, led to his being selected in the year 1829 to be a member of a scientific body, deputed by the Grand Duke of Tuscany to investigate the monumental and hieroglyphic remains in the valley of the Nile; and after the death of Champollion, the honourable duty of publishing the results of their united labours was entrusted to him. The magnificent work in which these results were contained began to appear in the year 1832, at Pisa, under the auspices, and at the expense of the Grand Duke, Leopold II. The first issue comprised a series of beautifully executed engravings, accompanied by a volume of descriptive text in Italian; and the whole was preceded by a learned dissertation on ancient Egyptian history, compiled from Herodotus and Diodorus Siculus, with full catalogues of all the dynasties, as preserved by Manetho, Julius Africanus, Eusebius, and Syncellus. From that period, until the decease of the Professor, volume after volume appeared with undiminished interest and splendour, at intervals of little more than a year. The printing of the whole work had not been accomplished at the date of the author's decease; but it is understood that the

materials for its completion were left by him in such a state of forwardness, that the small portion remaining will be issued to the public with very little delay. Copies of this beautiful work were regularly presented to the Society by their learned Member, and form a valuable accession to their library. Professor Rosellini was also the author of a practical Coptic Grammar, published at Rome, in 1837; of a Philologico-Critical Letter to Professor Amedeo Peyron, published at Pisa in 1831; and of a Tribute of Gratitude and Affection to the Honoured Memory of G. F. Champollion, Jun., published at Pisa in 1832.

The Honourable JOHN ROBERT MORRISON, Esq., was son of the late Dr. Morrison, the Author of a Chinese Grammar and Dictionary, and translator of the Bible into the Chinese language. He was born at Macao on the 17th April, 1814. He was taken, while an infant, to England, where (with the exception of nearly the whole of the years 1820 and 1821, which he passed at Macao) he resided until he had completed his twelfth year. On his return to China in 1826, he remained for a short time under his father's care; and was then sent to the Anglo-Chinese College at Malacca, where he resided three years, assiduously occupied in the study of the Chinese language, which he afterwards continued under his father's superintendance at Canton.

After the death of Dr. Morrison, his son was appointed Chinese Secretary and Interpreter to the Superintendents of British Trade in China. During the succeeding five years he resided chiefly in Canton, improving his knowledge of the language and customs of China by much study and research, as well as by the exercise of his official duties. In the year 1839 the conflict of Great Britain with the Chinese Empire began; and the services of Mr. Morrison were found invaluable. From that period until his death, Mr. Morrison's time was wholly devoted to the service of his country; and it may not be too much to say that his indefatigable exertions in conducting the diplomatic correspondence of Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, and in acting as interpreter between the British Authorities and the Imperial Commissioners from the Court of China, both by land and sea, during three expeditions along the coast, contributed to shorten his term of life. He died at the age of twenty-nine, on the 29th of August, 1843, the anniversary of the treaty of peace of Nankin; an event which he ardently desired, and which his exertions essentially aided in effecting.

Mr. Morrison devoted both time and money to the Medical Missionary Society, the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge in China, and the Morrison Education Society; of all these institutions he was one of the founders, and he acted in each, from their first establishment, as Secretary. He contributed generously to every benevolent association; and expended much money in private benefactions. His death was unfeignedly lamented by numbers of Chinese; and the loss of his services was felt by the English community as a public calamity.

At the period of his decease Mr. Morrison was Member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, and Chinese Secretary to Her Majesty's Government in China.

The Honourable GEORGE TURNOUR was a Member of the Civil Service of the Island of Ceylon, and latterly of the Supreme Council. At an early period of his residence his attention was attracted to the ancient vestiges and actual condition of Buddhism on Ceylon; and after mastering the Cingalese language he acquired a knowledge of Pali, as the most effective means of prosecuting his inquiries. The success which rewarded his efforts placed him at the head of this department of Oriental literature, and he has the merit of having first rendered accessible to the public, authentic materials for the history of the origin and progress of the religion of Buddha. His contributions to this subject and to the history of Ceylon, appeared originally in the Ceylon Almanack, a section of which was devoted for a considerable portion of Mr. Turnour's residence in Ceylon, to the literature and antiquities of the island. In this compilation for 1833, was published an Epitome of the History of Ceylon by Mr. Turnour, derived chiefly from the Mahawanso; a work which had for some time occupied his attention, and the translation of which he had commenced in 1826.

Under an impression that a translation of the same work was about to be published in London, Mr. Turnour suspended his labours; but resumed them, on finding that the London publication contained only an inaccurate translation of an imperfect Cingalese version of the original. The first volume of the Mahawanso, containing the text in Roman characters, and Mr. Turnour's translation, was published in 1837. A specimen of his work had been previously circulated, and procured him his election as an Honorary Member of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

The Mahawanso was composed in the fifth century of our era, and brings down the history of Buddhism, on the continent of India and on Ceylon, to the beginning of the fourth. Different continuations under the same title carry on the history of Ceylon to A.D. 1758. The portion published terminates with A.D. 477, and records many important events in the annals of Buddhism and Ceylon. The subsequent portions are of less value to ancient history; but as they must contain circumstances of importance not only with respect to Ceylon, but the neighbouring peninsula of India, it is highly desirable that the whole should be published. As far as the work given to the world extends, it establishes Mr. Turnour's reputation as a Pali scholar, and as an industrious, careful, and learned investigator of the past history of the Island of Ceylon, and of its national system of religious worship.

The light which the palæographic discoveries of Mr. James Prinsep reflected upon Buddhist history in India, could not fail to excite a lively interest in Mr. Turnour; and accordingly in the year 1835, and for some years afterwards, he was a frequent contributor to the pages of the Journal

of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. Besides other contributions, a series of valuable papers occurs in the sixth and seventh volumes, entitled "Examination of Pali-Buddhical Annals," in which Mr. Turnour describes a number of original works of authority previously unknown. But his most important contribution was comprised in a paper in the sixth volume, on the Tooth Relic of Ceylon, with remarks on the Lât inscription. In this he furnished an identification of the prince by whom the edicts inscribed on the Lât and on the rocks of Dhauli and Gîrnar were promulgated, and whose name, Piyadassi, had not been met with elsewhere in the writings of either Buddhist or Brahman. A copy of the Dipawanso, a Pali Buddhist work, having been brought to Ceylon from Siam, enabled Mr. Turnour to identify Piyadassi with Asoka, the grandson of Chandragupta, a sovereign of Magadha, in the third century B.C. The identity of these names still rests exclusively upon the authority of the Dipawanso, as cited by Mr. Turnour.

Mr. Turnour's health having been seriously impaired by his protracted residence in Ceylon, he returned to Europe in 1841. After a short stay in England, he was advised to spend some time in Italy. He died at Naples, in the beginning of last year.

Late accounts from India have notified the sudden death of MR. J. COLEBROOKE SUTHERLAND, nephew of the learned founder of this Society. This gentleman was an accomplished Sanskrit scholar; and while engaged in the duties of the civil service, he gave to the world his excellent translations of two important works on the law of adoption, as severally held by the schools of Bengal and Benares,—the Dattaka Mimansa and the Dattaka Chandrika. These are not only interesting accessions to Oriental literature, but are works of the highest authority in the important relation created by that extensively practised and peculiar rite, which gives rise to many and intricate questions before the Courts in India and the supreme tribunal of appeal in this country.

MAJOR C. P. J. ELOUT is well known by his excellent translations into the Dutch and French languages of Marsden's Grammar and Dictionary, which appeared at Harlem in 1824 and 1826. He is also the author of an original Malay grammar of very great value.

The more intimate relations which have recently been established between this country and the great empire of China, naturally excite the most lively hopes that our acquaintance with every subject of interest in the vast and varied regions, and among the singular people of that remarkable portion of Asia, will be largely and rapidly improved. The government of Hong-Kong has been happily confided to a learned and zealous Member of this Society, whose intimate knowledge of the language, and extensive acquaintance with the literature and the people of China, will enable him to direct the researches of the officers under

his authority into the most promising fields of inquiry. The Council have not failed to solicit his Excellency's powerful aid in furtherance of the Society's objects in that quarter; and his Excellency has promised them his own exertions, as far as his important avocations will permit, as well as the best application in their behalf of the resources at his command.

A learned Member of the Society having communicated, in a paper lately read at a general meeting, the result of his personal observations and scientific examination of the most remarkable and interesting of the Cave Temples of India, the attention of the Society has been particularly drawn to the present state of some very curious and important remains of ancient Hindu art, which exist in the caves of Ajunta, exhibiting, in a peculiar style of fresco painting, the characteristic forms and appearance of various races, at a period probably antecedent to the Christian era. These singular reliques being in the course of destruction or obliteration, not only by the wear of time, but also by the rough hand and careless treatment of those who occupy, from time to time, the recesses in which they are found, the Council have addressed to the Honourable Court of Directors of the East India Company an earnest request that some competent person may be engaged, under their orders, to make accurate drawings from those ancient paintings, which may preserve faithful memorials of these highly curious remains of the graphic art among the natives of India*.

It has appeared to the Council that some impulse might be given towards a more general interest in the operations of the Society, by occasional meetings being held in the evening, at which topics of general interest, rather than of learned research or abstruse investigation, might be discussed; such especially are those which relate to the development of the natural resources, and the progress of improvement in the productions of art, and industry, both in our vast Indian possessions and in the Empire of China. Such subjects fall legitimately within the scope of the Society's labours; but the information which may be obtained respecting them would lose much of its value and usefulness if produced at an hour when those to whom it would be of the greatest advantage are preventing from attending by the pressure of other avocations. One evening meeting was held at the close of the last season, and one has taken place very recently, at which information of great interest and value respecting the cultivation of the tea-plant, and the suitability of the climate of the valley of the Dhoon to its growth, was imparted to a numerous auditory, by Professor Royle and Dr. Falconer. If the feeling of the Society be favourable to the introduction of more frequent evening

* It is gratifying to state that the representation of the Council has been most favourably entertained by the Honourable Court.

meetings, on a systematic plan, the Council will take measures for settling the times at which they shall be held, and will make such other arrangements as may be requisite before the ensuing season of 1844-5. It may be thought desirable to hold one more evening meeting in the present season.

Among the donations to the Society's LIBRARY, the Council wish to advert to the valuable *Recueil de Monnaies de la Chine, du Japon, de la Corée, d'Annam, et de Java*, by the Baron de Chaudoir, published at St. Petersburg, in 1842. This valuable work is illustrated by sixty large folio plates, containing representations of more than a thousand coins, ancient and modern, as well as of the various kinds of paper-money which for more than three centuries was the principal circulating medium of the Chinese empire. The plates present not only the current coins, but the numerous medals cast in China by the votaries of Buddha and Tao-tze, which are adorned with mysterious symbols, and are known to be preserved as talismans or amulets, or, at least, as memorials of objects of worship. The text contains a full description of all the coins figured, with many historical details; and also an interesting account of the introduction of paper-money into the empire, and of the causes which led to its depreciation and disuse towards the end of the fifteenth century.

The lithographed edition of the *Vendidad Sade*, edited by Framji Aspandiar-ji and other Dasturs, and printed in 1842, has been presented to the Society by their Bombay Branch. Of this valuable publication twenty-five copies only were taken off, intended exclusively for presentation to national libraries: the Council may therefore congratulate the Society on its possessing, in this work, a rare, as well as an important volume.

The Council refer with some satisfaction to the Annual Account, which will be found to exhibit a more favourable balance than that of the preceding year by 113*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, the sum in hand at the close of 1843 being 291*l.* 14*s.*: to this sum should be added 105*l.*, the yearly donation of the Honourable East India Company, which was not received till January, and therefore too late to appear in the account:—making together a total of 396*l.* 14*s.* A part of this increase, to the amount of 101*l.* 8*s.*, is occasioned by the most desirable of all causes—an increase in the number of subscribing members. A hundred pounds were the generous donation of James Alexander, Esq., which was acknowledged in the report of last year. A diminution of expenditure in printing, caused by some of the lithographic work of the XIVth Number of the Journal having been paid for in the previous year, will account for the rest of the favourable balance now exhibited. Of this comparative improvement, however, the Council are bound to observe, that it must be attributed to contingent, rather than to permanent causes; and that fair scope cannot be given to the beneficial operations of the Society so long

as their limited finances are burdened with the heavy charge of 250*l.* a year, for house-rent. The Council must repeat the expression of their deep regret that a Society, instituted "for the advancement of knowledge in relation to Asia," and honoured by the Royal Patronage, should still be unprovided with accommodation in a public building.

The Council have the high gratification of notifying to the meeting a second munificent donation to the funds of the Society, that since the preparation of this Report has been received from their very generous and much respected friend Mr. James Alexander, the former Treasurer of this Society. Such donations, made for the purpose, as Mr. Alexander has expressed it, "of being applied in the manner that may be deemed best suited to promote the beneficial intercourse between England and India, and to make the wants and the capabilities of each country known to the other," are at once the most honourable testimonials of the giver's zeal in the cause of the Society, and of his confidence in its exertions, and a most seasonable accession to its general resources.

From the Secretary of the Oriental Translation Committee the Council have received the following notice of the proceedings of the Committee during the past year, which they have much satisfaction in submitting to the Meeting. It will be found to afford continued proofs that the labours of that important branch of the Society in the wide field of Eastern learning have in no way relaxed, however inadequate the income of the Fund may be to carry out its objects to the extent desired by Oriental scholars.

The works published by the Committee since the last Anniversary of the Society are the following:—

1. The History of the Mahommedan Dynasties in Spain; Vol. II. Translated from the Arabic of Al-Makkari, by Don Pascual de Gayangos.

This valuable and extensive work, occupying two thick quarto volumes, is now completed, at an expense of upwards of 1300*l.* To the present volume the translator has added many valuable notes, collected from scarce manuscripts in the Bodleian Library, and the collection of Nathaniel Bland, Esq., which compensate for various deficiencies in the original text of Al-Makkari.

2. The Second Volume of Ibn Khallikan's Biographical Dictionary; translated from the Arabic, by Baron MacGuckin de Slane: 700 pages, quarto.

In the Preface to this volume the translator has introduced an interesting inquiry into the course of study and system of mental culture, usually considered necessary, in Mahommedan countries, to form a well-educated Moslim.

3. The third livraison of *Histoire des Sultans Mamlouks de l'Égypte*; translated from the Arabic by Monsieur Quatremère.

This portion of the work contains the history of the reigns of Mansúr Kaláwún, and of his son Ashráf Khalil, comprising the period from A.D. 1279 to 1294.

4. The *Dabistán*, or *School of Manners*; translated from the Persian, with Notes, &c., by D. Shea, and A. Troyer. 3 vols. 8vo.

More than half a century has elapsed since Sir William Jones directed the attention of the learned to the *Dabistán*; and pronounced it the most amusing and instructive book he had ever read in Persian. Notwithstanding this eulogy, small portions only of the work had hitherto been translated into English; and to the Oriental Translation Committee must be awarded the credit of placing the entire work before the European world.

The translation was commenced several years ago, by the late David Shea, Esq., Assistant Oriental Professor at the East India Company's College, at Haileybury, but whose labours were stopped by death when about a third of the translation had been finished. Mr. Shea's manuscript translation was handed over to Captain Troyer, who undertook to complete the version, at the particular request of the late Earl of Munster, to whose memory the present work is dedicated. Captain Troyer makes honorable mention of the correct state in which he found his predecessor's version, so far as he had carried it; and bringing to the labour an intimate acquaintance with the Sanskrit language, the present translator has been enabled to clear up ambiguities in the text, particularly where it related to Hindu creeds, which might otherwise have been left unexplained. The names of both translators are most favourably known amongst Oriental students; and both have been actuated in their labours by a disinterested zeal for the advancement of Oriental literature rarely surpassed.

The *Dabistán al Mazahib*, "The School of Sects," is, as this allowable version of the title imports, devoted to accounts of the religious systems of mankind, so far as the compiler was able to collect them. The accounts appear to have been collected with care, judgment, and impartiality; and the work abounds with examples that tolerance is the abstract profession of Eastern sectaries, however contrary to it may be their actual practice. The work seems to have been composed in the beginning of the seventeenth century, and was long attributed to one Mohsan Fani, whose identity, however, has not been satisfactorily established. A carefully revised edition of the text was printed at Calcutta in 1809, under the superintendance of W. Butterworth Bayley, Esq.

Captain Troyer has appended to his translation a learned dissertation on the authorship of the *Dabistán*, in which the authenticity of that remarkable book the *Desatir*, and the originality of the *Zend writings*, are defended with much critical zeal.

Among the translations preparing for the press may be noticed a History of Tipú Sultán, being a continuation of the Nishan-i Haideri; translated from the Persian, by Col. W. Miles; and the Kitáb-al Yamíni, containing an account of the conquests of Sultán Mahmúd, of Ghazna; translated from the Arabic by the Rev. James Reynolds, the Secretary to the Committee. The latter work was equally celebrated for its illustrious subject, for the beauty and for the difficulty of the composition. The intricacy of phrase and arrangement which distinguishes this remarkable work discouraged even native scholars, and imposed important obstacles to the efforts of a European translator. But by the liberality of the Committee, the translator has been furnished with the transcript of a Persian MS. version in the Royal Library at Paris; and, by the assistance of this version, it is hoped that the English translation will be shortly completed and published.

The offers which the Committee continue to receive of translations are more numerous than their limited funds allow them to entertain. They, however, have favourably received a proposal from Mr. James Ballantyne, of Edinburgh, of a translation from the Persian of Khafi Khán's History of India,—the *Muntakhab ul Labáb*,—a work highly praised by Stewart, Elphinstone, Erskine, and others, as containing accounts of events occurring in the reigns of Akhbar and Aurangzáb, but little known among Europeans.

The third volume of Professor Flügel's edition of "Haji Khalfæ Lexicon Encyclopædicum et Bibliographicum," is about to be delivered to the Subscribers.

COLONEL SYKES read the report of the Auditors on the financial affairs of the Society, as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,

London, 4th May, 1844.

We have the honour to report that in conformity with our appointment we have audited the Accounts of the Society, furnished by the Treasurer, for the year ending 31st December, 1843, and that after carefully examining the books, and comparing the receipts and disbursements with the respective vouchers, we have found them correct. The balance in favour of the Society at the end of 1843 is 291*l.* 14*s.*; and the assets of the Society consist of a sum of 1,942*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* in 3 per Cent. Consols, exclusive of the value of the Library, Museum, Furniture, &c.

The value of these last-mentioned items has for many years been stated at 3,500*l.* This includes 1,500*l.* for value of copyrights, and stock of the Society's publications, which appears to us considerably to exceed what is reasonable; and we have no means of forming any accurate estimate of the value of the Library and Museum: we consider, however, that they would not be over-rated at 1,700*l.* or 1,800*l.*; and if the Furniture be taken at 300*l.*, the property which it would be

prudent to cover by insurance may be estimated moderately at 2,000*l.* Now the actual insurance is only for 1,000*l.*; and we beg to submit to the Council the expediency of adding another 1,000*l.* The additional annual charge would be 2*l.* 5*s.*

We beg also to bring to the notice of the Council the large amount chargeable to the Society on account of house-rent, and other items consequent on the nature of the building occupied by it. We have reason to think that accommodation better suited for the purposes of the Society might be obtained at a lower rent, and of a kind requiring a lower amount of incidental expenses; and, as immediately connected with this matter, we have to state that the third term of the Society's lease will expire at Christmas next; and that if the Council are not disposed to continue the lease for a further term of seven years, notice must be given before Midsummer next.

In conclusion, we beg leave to call the attention of the Council to the very close approximation of the Receipt and Expenditure in the estimate for the ensuing year, notwithstanding that the Receipts accidentally include an extra sum of 105*l.* from the East India Company, which was not paid within the last official year; its place, however, having been supplied by the very liberal donation of 100*l.* from Mr. James Alexander.

We have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient humble servants,

HOLT MACKENZIE, } *Auditors on the*
W. H. SYKES, } *part of the Society.*

J. OLIPHANT, } *Auditor on the part*
 } *of the Council.*

*To the President and Council of
The Royal Asiatic Society.*

STATEMENT No. 1.

ABSTRACT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, from 1st of January to 31st of December, 1843.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
125 Subscriptions of Resident Mem- bers for 1843, at 3 <i>l.</i> 3 <i>s.</i> each . . .	393 15 0	House-rent, (less Property Tax paid last year)	213 16 5
55 ditto, at 2 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>s.</i> each	115 10 0	Rates and Taxes	46 14 0
10 ditto, Non-resident Members, at 2 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>s.</i> each	21 0 0	Fire Insurance	2 5 0
Arrears of Annual Subscriptions paid up	24 3 0	Housekeeper's Wages	42 0 0
	£554 8 0	Sundry House-charges	25 2 7
16 Admission Fees, at 5 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> each . . .	84 0 0	Coals	14 5 0
5 Compositions	84 0 0	Four Dozen Chairs	9 10 0
	168 0 0	Plumber and Glazier	7 4 0
One Year's Dividend on Consols (less Income Tax)	56 11 10	Carpenter	11 1 0
Publications sold in 1843	26 0 6	Salaries: Assistant-Secretary, 130 <i>l.</i> ; Clerk, 45 <i>l.</i> ; Porter, 50 <i>l.</i> ; Ar- mourer, 6 <i>l.</i>	231 0 0
Annual Payment from Oriental Translation Fund	30 0 0	Collector's Poundage	30 0 0
Annual Donation from Hon. East India Company*	0 0 0	Printer's Bill for Journal, No. XIV. . .	130 9 0
	112 12 4	Stationery, and Sundry Printing . .	18 0 1
Donation from James Alexander, Esq. . .	100 0 0	Bookbinding, 17 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i> ; Periodicals, 5 <i>l.</i> 17 <i>s.</i>	22 19 9
	£935 0 4	Ornamental Diploma	5 5 0
In hand at the end of 1842	178 9 3	Postage and Carriage, 10 <i>l.</i> 15 <i>s.</i> ; Balance of Secre- tary's Account, 1 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i>	12 1 9
[£1942 17 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i> in 3 per Cent. Consols.]	£1113 9 7	Balance in hand, 31 Dec., 1843	£821 15 7
			£1113 9 7

* Received in January, 1844.

STATEMENT No. 2.

ESTIMATED RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE for 1844.

ESTIMATED RECEIPT.			ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE.		
£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Annual Subscriptions and Arrears of			House-rent and Taxes	.	250 0 0
Subscription	546	0 0	House-expenses . . . . .	.	100 0 0
10 Admission Fees, at 5l. 5s.	52	10 0	Salaries . . . . .	.	231 0 0
Compositions	0	0 0	Collector . . . . .	.	30 0 0
Annual Donation from East India			Printing Journal and Catalogue . . . . .	.	250 0 0
Company	105	0 0	Stationery and Periodicals . . . . .	.	45 0 0
Ditto, for 1842, not entered in that			Postage, &c. . . . .	.	15 0 0
Year's Account	105	0 0			
Dividend on Consols	56	11 10			
Oriental Translation Fund, for 1844	30	0 0	Estimated Balance, end of 1844 . . . . .	.	290 15 10
Sale of Publications	25	0 0			
		<u>321 11 10</u>			
		£920 1 10			
In hand, end of 1843		291 14 0			
		<u>£1211 15 10</u>			<u>£1211 15 10</u>

When the reading of the preceding Reports was concluded,

NATHANIEL BLAND, Esq., moved, "That the Report of the Council and that of the Auditors, be received and adopted; and that the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Auditors for the attention and efficiency with which they have performed the duty of their office."

Seconded by Dr. ROGERS, and carried unanimously.

Sir GEORGE STAUNTON said he had great pleasure in performing the duty which had been assigned to him, of moving a vote of thanks to their noble President. As one of the original Members of this Institution, and having at all times felt a warm interest in its prosperity and advancement, it had given him pain to observe on some former occasions symptoms of depression and decline; but it was no less gratifying to him to be able, on the present occasion, to congratulate the Meeting on the evidences that had been given of increased vigour and activity in its proceedings since our last anniversary. He felt assured that he only expressed the general sense of the gentlemen present, when he attributed this improvement mainly to the zealous and assiduous attention of our noble President, in personally superintending our affairs. The high station which his Lordship had filled in India, had enabled him to become familiarly acquainted with those various interesting objects of science, literature, and the arts, connected with the East, which this Society was instituted to promote. We now had the pleasure of observing the great interest his Lordship also took in their advancement; and it was fair to expect that his example would excite an additional zeal in this cause in the many other able and qualified individuals who are Members of our Institution.

It must be acknowledged, Sir George observed, that this Society, having for one of its main objects, a purpose of such public and national importance as an inquiry into and development of the resources of that vast Oriental Empire which Providence has placed under British rule; and being, moreover, peculiarly qualified to perform this service, from the constant accession to its Members from amongst those distinguished public servants who annually retire from the East to this country, has not yet received that share of public patronage and support to which it is justly entitled. Patronage, it was true, could not create talent; nor was it, perhaps, required in our case, in order to stimulate it into action; but it might contribute very important subsidiary aid to the promotion of the objects to which our attention is devoted. The patronage of the Government and the public might be most beneficially employed in supplying the Society with suitable accommodation for our Meetings, our Library, and our valuable Museum, much of which was now hidden in boxes and in cellars, and thus lost to the public for the want of suitable position for its exhibition. Much of the existing funds of the Society, which was now

necessarily devoted to the charge of rent, would be thus set free, and applicable to the purchase of books, the procuring of interesting objects of Eastern art and antiquity, and the general purposes of the Society. Sir George said, in conclusion, that he trusted that the great public utility of an Institution of this character would ultimately force itself into the notice of Her Majesty's Ministers and the public, under the more active administration of its affairs by our present able and distinguished President,—upon whose high character and eminent public services, had he been absent, he would gladly have further enlarged; but out of delicacy to his Lordship, who now occupied the Chair, he could not detain them longer, but simply move, "That the thanks of the Society be given to the Right Hon. the Earl of Auckland, the President, for his Lordship's obliging and assiduous personal attention to the affairs and objects of this Institution, and the warm interest he has displayed in promoting their success."

JOHN GOLDIE, Esq., seconded this motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Right Hon. the PRESIDENT rose to acknowledge the vote of thanks passed in his favour. He accepted with pleasure this mark of the Society's approval; and he only regretted that he had not done more to deserve it. It would be strange, indeed, if he did not feel interest in the objects of the Society. His impressions of India were too recent, his regard for that country was too warm, and he had too many grateful recollections connected with it, not to be bound to it by affection, as he had been by duty. He looked upon the Society as founded for the better knowledge and for the improvement of all that regarded India; and he could not, therefore, but wish success to its efforts. It was but too true, that he was not competent materially to aid those efforts: he had not those acquirements in language and in literature which distinguished many of his friends near him: but there were branches of inquiry to which he was attached; and, even where he could do little himself, he might, by encouraging and directing the exertions of others, be not altogether useless.

The Report, which they had heard read, was so full and so explicit that it did not require many observations from him; but he might say of it, that if it did not contain throughout matter for triumphant congratulations, it might, at least, be pronounced as satisfactory upon nearly every important point; and the Society may be regarded as standing well—as promising yet further to advance, and carry out all the objects for which it was instituted. Upon all these occasions, the first object of anxiety is that of finance; and here, principally, there may not be matter for exultation; for assuredly our means are narrow, and all must feel that with extended means there would be increased power of doing good—of enlarging and exhibiting our collections—of improving our

publications—and of encouraging research. Yet it had in many former years been the duty of the President to announce an excess of expenditure over income ; and it was at least satisfactory, on the present occasion, to find that, though small indeed, there had been in the year last past, some excess of income above the outlay incurred ; and he was glad to see that there was, in the estimate submitted to the Auditors, a promise of a similar excess for the ensuing year. He lamented that this excess was so small ; but there was on the part of the public a growing interest in all that regarded India and the East. It was the duty of the Society, by every exertion, to meet that interest ; and he trusted that there would be found, in return, an increased support, marked by additions to their numbers, and that we should receive in the end that assistance and encouragement, to which the Report had alluded, from the Government, in the appropriation of a building to the Society.

With regard to their prospects of receiving this support, he could, with much gratification, assert that in few years had more valuable papers been submitted to the Society than in that year which was under review. He would not do more than allude to the excellent and well-directed labours of the Translation Committee, for those labours were detailed in the Report ; but he would rather point to the papers which had been read at their Meetings ; and though some great names had been taken by death from their list, and have been gratefully and sadly recorded in the Report, the Society still possessed Professor Wilson, Mr. Fergusson, Mr. Bland, and many others, whose invaluable communications upon the literature and antiquities of the East were fresh in their recollections ; whilst in the more practical matters which regard the commerce, the agriculture, and the industry of Asia, in which he himself, from being more conversant with them, had taken the more prominent interest, we might instance the interesting communications received from Drs. Royle and Falconer, and those sent by the Court of Directors, and Board of Control.

They had within the last year tried the experiment of Evening Meetings, at which some of these more practical matters might be treated. The experiment had been eminently successful, and would be renewed. He hoped they would shortly be favoured with a review of the fossil remains of the lower range of the Himalayas from Dr. Falconer. He had received a report on the Grains and Agriculture of Western India, by Dr. Gibson ; and, he believed, that a gentleman highly qualified to do justice to the subject, was preparing a paper on the Canals which had been constructed, and were still existing or projected in India, and on their application to irrigation for agricultural purposes. And he had no doubt that by these and similar reports, the interest of these Evening Meetings would be fully kept up. He regretted that the absence of Sir Alexander Johnston deprived them of his valuable report of the proceedings of the Committee of Correspondence ; but that department had not been idle ; and, more particularly,

letters had been written to the new authorities in China, who had evinced a lively interest in the Society, and from whom he trusted that communications of much value and interest might one day be received. Application had been made, as they had heard from the Report of the Council, to the Court of Directors, for procuring drawings of the ancient fresco paintings in the Caves of Ajunta; and although no official reply had yet been received from the Court, he had every reason to believe that the subject was likely to receive a just and highly favorable consideration. He would now conclude by assuring the Meeting that his time and his best exertions were at their command; and that he had the less merit in this, inasmuch as what he felt to be a duty, was equally his pleasure and enjoyment.

The Right Hon. Sir EDWARD RYAN moved, "That the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Director, the Vice-Presidents, and the Council, for the zeal and ability with which they have discharged their important duties in directing the operations, and superintending the affairs of the Royal Asiatic Society during the past year."

LOUIS HAYES PETIT, Esq., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

General BRIGGS moved, "That the thanks of the Meeting be rendered to the Officers of the Society, the Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian, for the attention they have devoted to the discharge of their several duties during the last year."

This motion was duly seconded; and carried unanimously.

Mr. CLARKE rose to thank the Meeting for the Vote awarded to him. He felt that fully to realise the benefits which this Society was calculated to produce, and which had been so eloquently developed by the noble President, would demand higher qualifications and greater leisure than he could command; but he assured the Meeting that while he would gladly see his place more worthily occupied, yet, so long as his humble services received the kind acceptance with which they were honored by the Council and by the Society, they should be most cheerfully rendered. He desired again to express his high sense of the valuable and ever ready services of his talented and zealous coadjutor, Mr. NORRIS, the Assistant Secretary.

CHARLES ELLIOTT, Esq., in returning thanks, said he wished that the Society's receipts would augment sufficiently to make his office one of much greater benefit; and that he should be most willing to undergo the additional labour which such increase would entail upon him.

JOHN SHAKESPEAR, Esq., returned thanks.

Colonel SYKES said, that it was his agreeable duty to move the thanks of the Meeting to James Alexander, Esq., for a second donation of 100*l.* to the funds of this Society. He was happy to bear his testimony to the unremitting anxiety manifested by the late Treasurer to promote the interests of the Society, and to the remarkable promptness with which that feeling was acted upon. It was but a few days ago that, in a conversation with Mr. Alexander, he had casually alluded to the low state of the Society's finances, and he had no doubt on his mind that the observation thus made had produced this additional donation. Mr. Alexander was one of the warmest friends of this Institution; and he had shewn his good wishes with most efficient measures. He therefore moved, "That the munificent liberality of James Alexander, Esq., the late Treasurer of the Royal Asiatic Society, in presenting a second donation of 100*l.* to its funds, is entitled to the warmest and most grateful acknowledgments of this Meeting; and that the Council be requested to convey to Mr. Alexander, on behalf of the Society, the cordial expression of their thanks for his generous gift."

This motion was put from the Chair, and carried unanimously.

JOHN GOLDIE, Esq., and Capt. WM. J. EASTWICK were nominated Scrutineers; and the Meeting proceeded to ballot for the Officers of the Society, and New Members of Council.

At the close of the ballot, it was declared that the Officers of the past year were re-elected; and that Colonel R. Barnewall; the Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie; James Matheson, Esq., M.P.; G. R. Porter, Esq.; Henry T. Prinsep, Esq.; Professor Forbes Royle, M.D.; the Right Hon. Sir E. Ryan; and Lieut.-Colonel W. H. Sykes, were elected into the Council, in the place of the following Members going out by rotation:—Samuel Ball, Esq.; Major-General J. Caulfeild, C.B.; Sir Thomas Edward Colebrooke, Bart., M.P.; Captain Wm. J. Eastwick; John Guillemard, Esq.; Lieut.-Colonel W. Martin Leake; the Honorable W. Leslie Melville; and the Very Reverend the Dean of Salisbury.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY,

HELD ON THE 17TH OF MAY, 1845,

SIR HENRY WILLOCK, K L.S.,

CHAIRMAN OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY,

VICE-PATRON,

IN THE CHAIR.

THE HONORARY SECRETARY read the Annual Report of the Council, as follows:—

In presenting their annual REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS, the Council have the gratification to congratulate the Meeting on the actual condition of the Society, as rather more prosperous than it has been for some years past. On recent occasions they have been contented to state that the diminution of Members has been small; in the year now current there is every promise of an increase in the number of Contributing Members, especially since the commencement of the present session, and consequently of an improvement in the annual receipts; and it is gratifying to add, that they are justified in making a larger outlay; the amount of printing executed in the past year having exceeded what has been put forth for several preceding years.

Twenty-two new Members have been elected, of whom nineteen are Contributing Members, resident and non-resident; and three are Corresponding Members. Their names are as follow:—

Contributing Members, resident and non-resident.

1. G. W. Anderson, Esq.
2. T. P. B. Biscoe, Esq.
3. Wm. Wilberforce Bird, Esq.

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4. Albemarle Bettington, Esq.
5. Major-Gen. William Cullen.
6. Col. Thos. Dickenson.
7. The Lord Francis Egerton.
8. Dr. Hugh Falconer, F.R.S.
9. William S. Gillett, Esq.
10. Robert Garstin, Esq.
11. Sir Henry Hardinge, K.C.B.
12. The Rev. F. Hessey, LL.D.
13. The Rev. C. W. Ireland Jones.
14. Captain John Lewis.
15. Major-Gen. W. Morison, C.B., M.P.
16. J. R. Stoop, Esq.
17. Frederick Schönerstedt, Esq.
18. Lieut. Thos. Waghorn, R.N.
19. Major Thomas Wilkinson.

Corresponding Members.

1. Robert Thom, Esq., H. B. Majesty's Consul at Ningpo.
2. Captain Balfour, H. B. Majesty's Consul at Shanghai.
3. Francis C. M'Gregor, Esq., H. B. Majesty's Consul General in China.

Six gentlemen have retired from the Society since the last Anniversary, and five have died ; their names are as follow :—

Retired.

1. Thomas Law Blane, Esq.
2. Alexander D. Campbell, Esq.
3. Benjamin Harding, Esq.
4. Colonel C. M. Roberts.
5. Colonel H. T. Roberts.
6. Timothy Tyrell, Esq.

Dead.

1. John Blackburne, Esq.
2. J. L. Guillemard, Esq.
3. Dr. John G. Malcolmson.
4. The Right Hon. Sir Gore Ouseley, Bart., V.P.
5. James Ritchie, Esq.

Among the names which have just been read is one which will awaken the most lively sympathies of the Society,—it is that of their venerable, accomplished, and amiable Vice-President, SIR GORE OUSELEY. As one of the most prominent among the founders of the Society, and of the most active of its friends, and, while health continued, among the most regular in his attendance at our sittings, his loss will be long and deeply felt ; and

more especially will the privation of his support and counsels be experienced in that branch of the Society's labours, the Oriental Translation Fund, over which he had presided from its earliest establishment.

The Council have learned with much satisfaction that a Memoir of this distinguished person, whose services had been employed for the benefit of his country in various regions of the world, and whose name is familiar to the learned of Europe and of Asia, is preparing by the Rev. and learned Secretary of the Oriental Translation Fund, and will be enriched with valuable materials from private as well as from public sources. The Council will not lessen the interest which this announcement will awaken by attempting an imperfect biographical sketch, but will limit themselves to the expression of their high respect for the varied attainments, their gratitude for the services rendered to this Society, and their affectionate regard for the memory of their late Vice-President, Sir Gore Ouseley.

The next name which presents itself as entitled to special notice on this occasion is of another of the earliest associated founders of the Royal Asiatic Society. JOHN GUILLEMARD, Esq., was descended from a highly respectable French Protestant family, which took refuge in England on the occasion of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. He was a gentleman of very considerable literary and scientific attainments; and was endeared to a very large circle of friends and acquaintance, (including most of the distinguished men of his time, not only in England, but on the Continent of Europe and the United States of America,) by his many amiable and social qualities, and the enlightened benevolence of his character. He had accumulated, in the course of a long life, large stores of information, derived from study, travel, and intercourse with mankind; and these stores he imparted in conversation, with the happiest facility, to all who enjoyed the pleasure and advantage of his society. His zeal and energy in the pursuit of knowledge, and the investigation of the latest discoveries in science, were very remarkable; and they suffered little abatement from the infirmities of his advanced age, until within a very short period of his decease.

Although not himself an Oriental scholar, he took a warm interest in all those Oriental inquiries which this Society was instituted to promote. He was one of its earliest Members, and frequently served upon its Councils; he was, in fact, a distinguished representative of that very essential class of our Members, who, without having any local or personal connection with the East, are induced, by their enlightened taste and patriotic feelings, to join this Institution for the purpose of giving all the aid and encouragement in their power to the valuable labours of their more qualified associates.

After receiving a liberal education at St. John's College, Oxford, in which University he proceeded to the degree of Master of Arts, and spending two winters at Edinburgh in attending lectures, and in the society of Dr. Black, Dugald Stewart, and other eminent men of science of that day, Mr. Guillemard passed several years in travels on the continent of Europe

and in the United States of America. In the latter country he formed an intimate acquaintance and friendship with the late Duke de la Rochefoucault Liancourt. This amiable and illustrious French nobleman, in the Preface to the published account of his American Travels, specially mentions the pleasure and advantage he had derived from Mr. Guillemard's society during his tours.

While Mr. Guillemard was in America, a Commission was appointed under the Treaty of Peace between Great Britain and the United States, for the settlement of the claims of the American Loyalists. It consisted of an American Commissioner, a British Commissioner, and a third Commissioner, who was to be chosen by an agreement between the contracting parties. This latter appointment was conferred, quite unexpectedly, and without solicitation, upon Mr. Guillemard, and is a strong evidence of the high opinion entertained on both sides of his impartiality and integrity. His attendance upon the duties of this office for some time gave him considerable occupation; but during the latter years of his life he enjoyed an honorable leisure in the midst of the literary and scientific circles of this Metropolis, and was a frequent attendant at the Meetings of all the principal learned Societies. He officiated for some time as Secretary of the Royal Institution, and was a constant and zealous supporter of that important scientific establishment. He was also a Magistrate and Justice of the Peace for the County of Essex, in which he possessed considerable property.

He died at his house in Gower-street, on the 22nd of November last, in the 81st year of his age; and left a widow (a sister of the late amiable and distinguished President of the Royal Society, Mr. Davies Gilbert) to lament his loss.

DR. JOHN GRANT MALCOLMSON entered the East India Company's service in 1823. He served in nearly every part of the Madras Presidency, and in the provinces beyond the Ganges, and was everywhere distinguished for attention to his professional duties, kindness to the men entrusted to his care, and the indefatigable pursuit of every branch of natural history. His pen was frequently employed in registering the results of his labours; and although he did not hastily publish his observations, many valuable papers appeared from time to time in the scientific journals of India and this country. In the year 1832, he obtained the prize of 500 rupees offered by the Government for the best essay on the disease called Beriberi, and on the Rheumatism, which is often a sequel to that disease. In awarding the prize, which was gained over competitors of no ordinary merit, the Board bore testimony to the indefatigable zeal of Dr. Malcolmson, as well as to the original and comprehensive views displayed by him in the Essay. Soon after this period he was appointed Secretary to the Medical Board, the duties of which office he continued to discharge until 1835, when illness compelled him to return to Europe, a journey which he accomplished by the then unaccustomed route of Mocha and Cosseir; making large geological

collections on his way, and pursuing some interesting investigations into the saline constitution of the Red Sea, the results of which appear in the Society's Journal.

During his residence in England he determined to retire from the Company's service, with a view of becoming a member of the mercantile house of Forbes and Co., Bombay. He left London in the Spring of 1840; and in the very short time allotted him in Egypt, he pursued his investigations into the extraordinary petrified forest near Cairo, which has not sufficiently excited the attention of geologists. He reached Bombay in the month of June; and was admitted a member of the house of Forbes and Co. Two years after this date he became Secretary to the Bombay Branch Royal Asiatic Society. He was indefatigable in arranging its library, increasing its museum, and improving its journal, both by his zeal in editing it, and by his valuable contributions to its pages. In 1843, he took a scientific excursion of considerable extent into the interior, in the course of which he came to the conclusion that the arid mountain ranges which now intersect India, hardly affording sufficient moisture for the preservation of animal life, must have exhibited at some former period, "vast plains of fresh water lakes and marshes, on the muddy shores of which multitudes of gavials, crocodiles, and tortoises must have preyed, and amidst the rank luxuriousness of the bordering vegetation, the mastodons, hippopotami, bisons and sivatheria, must have ranged, whose bones are now found so abundantly scattered over India."

Early in February 1844, he proceeded on another scientific tour, with the object of perfecting these enlarged views, during which incautious exposure to malaria brought on jungle fever. On the 27th he was seriously ill; but he rallied slightly, and proceeded to Dhoolia, which he reached on the 22nd of March, where he died on the evening of the following day.

Dr. Malcolmson has been characterised by the geologist Miller as "possessing, in a remarkable degree, the spirit of research which invariably marks the superior man;" and he is lamented by his friends as a man of mild demeanour, warm heart, and open liberality.

The following list of his publications affords but an inadequate idea of the attainments of Dr. Malcolmson; but it is believed that he left materials of great value in manuscript, which it may be hoped that the enlightened zeal of his friends will arrange and communicate to the world.

On a remarkable Aerolite, 1831.

On the Saline Formations around Hyderabad. Bengal Journal, 1833.

Practical Essay on the History and Treatment of Beriberi, Madras, 1835.

On the Saltness of the Red Sea. Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, 1837.

On a Peculiar Symptom in some Cases of Enlarged Liver. Lond. Med. and Chir. Trans., 1838.

Clinical Remarks on some Liver Cases. Edin. Med. and Surg. Journal, 1839.

- Review of Works on Bronchocele. Brit. and For. Med. Review, 1839.
On the Fossils of the Eastern Portion of the Basaltic District of India.
Trans. Geol. Soc., 1840.
On the Effects of Solitary Confinement on the Health of Soldiers, 1840.

It may not be thought unfitting that to the melancholy list of these most valuable members of the society who have in the year under review been taken from us, and who have most justly been mentioned with honor, the Council should add the name of William Griffith, whose death at Malacca, on the 9th of February last, has been announced by the last Mail from India, and whose loss will be a subject of deep sorrow to all who either regard the general interests of science, or the local and particular interests of India, and above all, to those who were personally acquainted with him, and could appreciate his great acquirements and his admirable qualities.

MR. GRIFFITH was one of the most accomplished botanists of our day; with the most accurate and extensive acquisition of learning in his department, he combined a spirit of activity and enterprise, such as has been rarely equalled, great talents, and a very remarkable power of labor, arrangement, and application. He was born in the year 1810, and was educated at the London University. He went out to India, as an assistant-surgeon on the Madras Establishment, where he arrived on the 24th September, 1832, and was shortly afterwards selected by the Bengal Government for the examination of the botany of the Tenasserim Provinces. He was, in 1835, deputed to Assam, with Dr. McClelland, for the purpose of assisting Dr. Wallich in his inspection of the growth of the Tea plant in Assam, and from thence he proceeded, in company with Dr. Bayfield, to the then unexplored tracts which lie between Suddiya and Ava, upon the extreme frontier of our Eastern territory. In 1837 he accompanied Captain Pemberton on his mission to the wild countries of Boutan. In 1839 he was sent, with the army of the Indus, to prosecute inquiries into the botany of Afghanistan. In 1841 he was appointed to the medical duties of Malacca. In 1842, upon Dr. Wallich's absence, from illness, at the Cape, he was intrusted with the superintendence of the Botanical Garden at Calcutta, and with the duties of the Botanical Professor in the Medical College; and, upon the return of Dr. Wallich from the Cape, he resumed his place at Malacca, where he was seized with disease of the liver, and died at the early age of thirty-four, having already acquired a distinguished reputation,—having in every capacity in which he served the Government received its approbation and its thanks; and having given a promise of such further services to botanical science as few have had either the opportunity or the talent of affording. In all his varied and extensive journeys, his courage and his energy never failed him; whether in the jungles of Assam, or the hills of Afghanistan, he still pursued his researches, undeterred by danger, either of disease or of violence; and if disabled, as he

was more than once by fever and debility, his first convalescence found him ever ready for fresh exertions. He had thus, by the application of extraordinary powers of observation, and in perquisitions extending through the vast regions which have been enumerated, formed large and valuable collections, and brought together materials for a great botanical work; and he looked with impatience to a period of repose for compiling a Scientific Flora of India, when he sunk under his last fatal illness. Perhaps no more impressive picture of the energy of this extraordinary man, and of his devotion to his favorite science, can be given than that which may be drawn from the following extracts from a letter which was dictated by him on his death-bed, and addressed to Dr. M'Clelland:—

“I write this by deputy, being seriously ill of hepatitis; the attack has been very severe, and the treatment necessarily active, so that I am reduced to an extreme state of weakness. Although my adviser does not despair, still the issue is doubtful, and under this impression I commence a few lines to you on business.

“Mrs. Griffith (supposing the result of this illness to be fatal to me) will bring up with her all the collections at Malacca, and they being added to those at the export warehouse, and all having been previously cleaned and packed, I leave to you to present to Government, for the Honourable Court of Directors, to be sent home without any delay. As you know the trouble I have taken with these collections, and the hopes I had of making them subservient to a general scientific Flora of India, I need not impress on you how much I am interested in their proper disposal, and their being brought properly before the scientific public; and I would say the same regarding my drawings and manuscripts, which will accompany my wife to Calcutta, should it so happen that I leave her.

“In all the plans which I have consigned to your execution, both regarding my wife and collections, I am confident your own feelings will prompt you to every exertion on my account. Asking God's blessing on you and your wife, I bid you good bye.”

“Thus far,” continues Dr. Moorhead, his medical attendant, “was written at Mr. Griffith's dictation, but I grieve to say the fatal result came to pass yesterday evening, Sunday, 9th February, at half-past seven o'clock.”

Memoranda on the above by Dr. M'Clelland.—“To the above details, furnished by Dr. Moorhead, I may remark that Mr. Griffith's constitution for the last two or three years seemed greatly shattered, his energies alone remaining unchanged. Exposure during his former journeys and travels laid the seeds of his fatal malady in his constitution, while his anxiety about his pursuits and his zeal increased; he became care-worn and haggard in his looks, often complaining of anomalous symptoms marked by an extreme rapidity of pulse, in consequence of which he had left off wine for some years past, and was obliged to observe great care and attention in his diet. In Afghanistan he was very nearly carried off by fever, to which he

had been subject on his former travels in Assam. No government ever had a more devoted or zealous servant, and I impute much of the evil consequences to his health, to his attempting more than the means at his disposal enabled him to accomplish with justice to himself."

Although Mr. Griffith's researches were directed primarily to Botany, he neglected no opportunity, during his visits to various parts of India, of attending also to other departments of Natural History. Of his zeal and success in Zoology, the collections which he made afford abundant proof; they consist chiefly of mammalia, birds, fishes, and insects. While attached to the army of the Indus, he made, on account of Government, large collections of mammalia and birds, which have been transmitted to the Honourable Court of Directors, and which constitute a valuable addition to the museum at the India House. In mammalogy he collected a considerable number of the smaller animals of Afghanistan, among which are several new to science; but his ornithological collections are more extensive, having brought together about six hundred specimens, not only from the route of the army, but from several separate excursions to the ranges of mountains north of Cabul. Besides the discovery of a considerable number of new species, the interest of these collections consists in their affording, perhaps, the most extensive and instructive illustration of the geographical distribution of the several species of birds found in India, which has as yet been attempted.

Mr. Griffith has also been zealous and successful as a collector of the fresh water fishes of India, during his various travels: the importance and extent of these is detailed in a paper on the subject, printed in the second volume of the *Calcutta Journal of Natural History*; and some of his discoveries in Entomology have been communicated to the public by the Rev. F. W. Hope, in the eighteenth volume of the *Transactions of the Linnæan Society of London*.

He was most especially remarkable for the philosophical spirit in which he invariably prosecuted his researches, and for the patience with which he watched the most minute phenomena which appeared to him connected with the subjects of his investigation. Some of his published papers, especially those on Vegetable Impregnation, and the Progressive Development of Organs, have never been excelled and rarely equalled.

The merits of this accomplished naturalist and devoted labourer in the field of scientific discovery, were appreciated and fostered by the noble President of this Society while at the head of the Government of India, and it is to his Lordship's kindness that the Society are indebted for some of the most interesting parts of the foregoing communication. His loss has also been recently noticed in terms of deep regret by the present Governor-General, Sir Henry Hardinge, in His Excellency's Address at the annual distribution of honors and prizes at the Bengal Medical College.

As it is understood that the whole of the valuable materials prepared and collected by Mr. Griffith are consigned to the Directors of the East

India Company, the most confident hopes may be cherished that the expectations of the scientific world will not be disappointed of the full benefit which they are calculated and were intended by him to confer on botanical and zoological knowledge, and that the irreparable loss entailed on his widow by his early death, and the sudden extinction of all those hopes of fortune, honour, and reward, which his extensive knowledge and indomitable energy were so well calculated to raise, will meet with such alleviation as, to the enlightened liberality of the Honorable Court, the great value of his labours, and the forlorn and ill-provided state of his widow and family, may be considered to merit.

In the course of the present session, two remarkable and important additions have been made to our stores of historical evidence, and to the means of accurately ascertaining the powers of hitherto imperfectly known forms of ancient writing.

The first of these valuable acquisitions is a transcript, which may now be pronounced nearly perfect, of an inscription at Kapur di Giri or Shah Baz Ghari, near Peshawar, of which only partial and mutilated fragments had been before obtained. With laudable zeal and judicious perseverance, Mr. Masson performed the task of tracing the letters cut in the face of the rock, by covering the surface with a black preparation, and thus leaving in blank the cavities by which the letters were formed. The pieces of cotton on which the impressions were thus taken, having been all placed at our disposal by Mr. Masson, together with written copies which he had made of the whole inscription, the work of transcription from them was undertaken by Mr. Norris, the Assistant Secretary, who, with indefatigable industry, minutely examined and compared every letter, collating several duplicate fragments, and referring to all the corroborative evidence that could be obtained from other copies of parts of the inscription; the result has been that a faithful and legible transcript has been made and accurately reduced; the alphabet of this hitherto imperfectly known character has been completed, and the inscription itself is now under the consideration of our learned Director, and will very shortly be laid before the world with his translation and remarks. It may in the mean time be interesting to the Meeting to learn that the inscription is of much greater extent than was first supposed, and that the subject matter is intimately connected with that of the Girnar and Dhauli inscriptions which have been deciphered and translated by the lamented James Prinsep.

The second very valuable communication which the Society has received, is from Major Rawlinson, now residing at Baghdad, who, in the year 1839, had made known to us the fact of his having succeeded to a great extent, in reading and analysing some important inscriptions on a rock in Bisitun or Bihistun in ancient Media, written in the cuneiform character, and containing a record of the genealogy and historical events of the reign of Darius the son of Hystaspes. The most lively interest was excited by

the sketch at that time submitted by Major Rawlinson, and proportionate disappointment was experienced by the delay which the occupations of Major Rawlinson in high political duties had interposed in the fulfilment of his intention to send home a complete version of those inscriptions. Greatly therefore were the Council rejoiced at learning from the Director, that this enterprising officer had now been enabled to render his labors so far complete as to propose their publication in the Society's Journal. He is anxious that they should be presented entire to the public, with the facsimiles, and the critical, historical, and grammatical notices which he has made ready to accompany and illustrate them. The Council have assured Major Rawlinson of their anxious desire to meet his wishes in every point to the full extent of their power, and they hope to receive from him, and they will prepare for publication, without any avoidable delay, the highly interesting and important papers which he is about to entrust to them.

The Council have again to notify the munificent liberality of their late Treasurer, who, ever mindful of the inadequacy of the Society's resources to accomplish the purposes for which it is associated, and generously resolved to give the most convincing and beneficial proof of the deep interest he feels in its cause, has now, for the third time, presented to us a noble donation of one hundred pounds. Of this sum it is Mr. Alexander's wish that one half be applied to the general purposes of the Society, and that the other moiety be expended in the purchase of books. To this appropriation of a part of his gift he has been led by the consideration of the actual state of the library, which, though possessing many works of high value, and some of great rarity, is particularly deficient in books of reference, and in many other works which our shelves ought to contain for the use of the Members, whether engaged in the search for information on subjects connected with the East, or which they may require to consult when preparing to impart, through the Society's instrumentality, the results of their own investigations. In the pursuit of such objects great disappointment would at present be experienced from the incompleteness of our collections, which have solely accrued from the liberal donations of friends giving or bequeathing many such books as a library of the Royal Asiatic Society should possess; but the limited extent of the funds at their disposal has never enabled the Council to provide for the systematic enlargement of our collection, or its completion in any one branch of Eastern study or research.

The Council cannot avoid expressing a hope, on this occasion, that the example set by their esteemed friend and former Treasurer of providing for the extension of the Society's library, may be followed by others of its Members and supporters, either by the presentation of works now deficient, or by placing at the disposal of the Council the means of procuring them, by special donations for that purpose.

Neither can the Council omit here to express their sense of great obliga-

tion to the many learned Societies and individual authors, both in this country and abroad, whose valuable publications constitute an important portion of the Society's present store of literary works; and they rely with full confidence on the continuance of the same liberal spirit, to supply the Members of this Society with the latest information on all that can interest and inform in knowledge and discovery connected with the subjects of the Society's researches.

Among the DONATIONS received since the last Anniversary, the Council has the pleasure to announce a valuable collection of Chinese works, presented by Samuel Ball, Esq., most of which are new to the Society's library. Among these are some important statistical works, believed to be unique in Europe. The addition of these books, and of some other recent donations, to the Chinese Library of this Society, renders it one of the most extensive and valuable of European collections in this branch of literature.

The diligent labors exerted in the investigation of Zoroastrian learning at the same time in different quarters of the world, and the munificent liberality exhibited in the printing and presentation of the sacred books of that religion, have enriched the Society's library with the lithographed edition of the *Yaçna* and *Vispard* of the Parsís, edited by Framji Aspan-diarji, and other *Dasturs*, presented by the Bombay Branch Royal Asiatic Society, in addition to the *Vendidad*, previously given by the same learned body. And the Society have likewise to acknowledge the donation of the splendid French edition of the *Vendidad Sadé*, of which the concluding numbers have been recently presented by Monsieur Burnouf, the learned editor.

There have been received from the American Oriental Society of Boston the first numbers of the *Journal* issued from the press of that body, whose institution and progress have been witnessed with much gratification by all those who are interested in the investigation of the antiquities and literature of the East. An earnest wish to co-operate on all matters of mutual interest has been expressed by the American Society, which has been cordially responded to by the Royal Asiatic Society.

The Council advert with much interest to the commencement of a valuable work by Mons. Burnouf, of which they have received the first portion, on the *History of Buddhism in India*; and they look forward with great expectation to the results which may follow from the extensive investigations of the learned author.

The Council notice with much pleasure, among the works presented to the library, a *History of the Pearl Fisheries of Ceylon*, by J. Steuart, Esq., illustrated with valuable drawings done by hand; the *Chinese and English Dictionary* of Mr. Medhurst—a convenient abridgment of Morrison, with some beneficial changes in the arrangement of words; and a copy of the great *Dictionary of the Armenian Language*, printed at the Armenian College of Venice.

The death of Sir GORE OUSELEY has caused a vacancy in the number of Vice-Presidents, which it will be for the Meeting to fill up. The Council feel assured that they have only anticipated the general feeling of the Society in nominating for your election a learned person, who for many years held the distinguished position of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at Calcutta, and yet more, in reference to the objects for which this Society is established, who long presided over the Asiatic Society of Bengal. The interest which that eminent person has always manifested in whatever regards the welfare of India, and the advancement of knowledge in all that relates to her history, antiquities, and science, and the kindness with which he last year consented to bear a part in the deliberations of the Council, distinctly point out Sir Edward Ryan as peculiarly entitled to the office for which he is this day proposed.

The Council have been furnished by the Secretary of the ORIENTAL TRANSLATION COMMITTEE with the following notice of the proceedings of that body, which they doubt not will be received with interest by the Society.

In the Committee's review of the past year, a tribute, however brief, of respect to the memory of its deceased Chairman, the Right Hon. Sir Gore Ouseley, is naturally called for from the members of the Committee, and is feelingly awarded. To Sir Gore Ouseley, jointly with the late Earl of Munster, the Oriental Translation Fund owes its foundation; and both these sincere friends to Oriental learning were equally unremitting in their exertions to promote its stability and success.

Sir Gore Ouseley, although his clear understanding and correct taste would have enabled him to use his extensive information to the best advantage, and would have probably ensured him success in any literary exertions, left no published compositions to the world. The Committee, however, have the melancholy satisfaction of announcing that they will shortly publish an interesting work, which their late Chairman, at the time of his decease, was actively engaged in preparing for the press. The book was originally entitled:—"A List of Thirty-One Persian Compositions; with Critical Remarks of Native Reviewers, and Biographical Notices of the Authors," and was inscribed by the Author "To his Friends and Colleagues of the Oriental Translation Committee." A Memoir of Sir Gore, drawn up by the Secretary of the Committee, chiefly from materials furnished by the obliging kindness of Lady Ouseley, will be appended to the work. It is to be regretted that the Right Honourable translator had not completed the whole of the number of notices he had proposed to himself; but as each article is separate and distinct, the work, though small in size, is complete, so far as it extends.

The two books published by the Committee since the last annual meeting of the Society, are, the third volume of Professor Flügel's great work, "Haji Khalfæ Lexicon Encyclopædicum et Bibliographicum;" and Colonel Miles's translation of "The History of the Reign of Tipú Sultan, being a continuation of the Nishani Haidari, written by Mir Hussein Ali Khan Kirmani." Another volume of Haji Khalfæ's Lexicon; and a moiety of the third volume of Baron Mac Guckin de Slane's translation of Ibn Khallikan's "Biographical Dictionary of Illustrious Men of Islámism," will shortly be presented to the public; as will also a portion of Baron Hammer-Purgstall's translation from the Turkish of "The Travels of Evliya Effendi."

Among the works recently offered for printing under the auspices of the Committee, are two deserving of especial notice. The first is, an extensive collection of Biographies of Persian Poets, proposed by Nathaniel Bland, Esq. The other is a translation of "The Book of Religious and Philosophical Sects," from the Arabic of Sharistání, a Mahomedan writer of the twelfth century, by the Rev. W. Cureton, the able editor of the original text of the work which is now in course of publication by the Oriental Text Society. The work of Sharistání, in an English dress, will form a fit companion to that curious and instructive book, the Dabistan, or "School of Sects," published last year by the Committee; and will doubtless open to the English student additional stores of information on the theology and philosophy of Eastern nations to those already furnished him through the medium of the Oriental Translation Fund; and for which the Committee trust they have established a merited claim on the earnest support of the many liberal patrons of literature in this country.

A translation from the Chinese, by that accomplished scholar the Rev. W. H. Medhurst, has also been submitted to the Committee; and has received their favourable attention. It is entitled, "An Account of the Malayan Archipelago; containing a statistical and historical view of the Eastern Islands, and particularly of Java; by Ong-tae-hae, a native of China."

The ORIENTAL TEXT SOCIETY has during the year effected the publication of the Makhzan al Israr, a poem by Nizami, which has been edited by Mr. Bland; and has continued its assistance to the Biographical Dictionary, the Takzib al Isma, edited by Mr. Wüstenfeld, of which five parts are now published. It is expected that the work will be finished in the course of the year.

The second volume of the Sharistání, edited by Mr. Cureton, is nearly ready for publication; and the Yusuf and Zuleikha, of Firdusi, by Mr. Morley, has been commenced.

In Sanskrit, the printing of the Dasa Kumara Charita has been commenced, under the superintendence of Professor Wilson.

GENERAL BRIGGS read the Report of the Auditors as follows :—

GENTLEMEN,

Grafton Street, 2nd May, 1845.

In pursuance of our appointment as Auditors of the Society's Accounts for the year 1844, we have this day examined the books of the Society, comparing them with the vouchers of the receipts and disbursements; and we have the pleasure to report their correctness.

The abstract, Statement No. 1, furnished to us by the Treasurer, shows the receipt of the year 1844 to have been 998*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*, to which must be added the sum of 291*l.* 14*s.*, the balance in the Society's favor at the end of 1843, making a total of 1289*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* The total expenditure of the year was 912*l.* 14*s.*, leaving a balance in the Society's favor, on the 31st December, 1844, of 377*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*, exceeding the balance at the end of 1843 by 85*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*

It must however be observed that these totals do not precisely represent the transactions of the year, because the actual receipts are increased by the accidental circumstance of the East India Company's donation for 1843, as well as that for 1844, having been received in the latter year; and they are diminished by the non-receipt in the course of the year of the annual contribution of 30*l.* from the Oriental Translation Fund, which will come into the account of 1845.

The proper totals of the year would be :—

Receipts, including the preceding year's balance	£1214	15	10	
From which deducting expenditure		912	14	0
		<hr/>		
The balance remaining would be for 1844	£302	1	10	
		<hr/>		
Exceeding the balance in hand at the end of 1843 by	£10	7	10	
		<hr/>		

The assets of the Society remain as heretofore, namely, 1942*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* in the 3 per cent. Consols; and the value of the Library, Museum, Furniture, &c. in the Society's House.

JOHN BRIGGS,	}	<i>Auditors on the</i>
R. BARNEWALL,		<i>part of the Society.</i>
WM. J. EASTWICK,	}	<i>Auditor on the part</i>
		<i>of the Council.</i>

*To the President and Council of
The Royal Asiatic Society.*

STATEMENT No. 1.
ABSTRACT OF RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE from 1st of January to 31st of December, 1844.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
125 Subscriptions of Resident Members, at 3 <i>l.</i> 3 <i>s.</i> each	393	15	0	House Rent, One Year (less Property Tax)	213	16	5
56 ditto, at 2 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>s.</i> each	117	12	0	Rates and Taxes	34	8	4
7 ditto, Non-Resident Members at 2 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>s.</i>	14	14	0	Fire Insurance	2	5	0
Arrears of Annual Subscriptions paid up	18	18	0	Housekeeper's Wages	48	0	0
12 Admission Fees, at 5 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> each	63	0	0	Sundry Charges, per Housekeeper	30	12	3
1 Composition	21	0	0	Coals, 16 <i>l.</i> ; Painter and Glazier, 22 <i>l.</i> 8 <i>s.</i>	38	8	0
One Year's Dividend on Consols (less Income Tax)	56	11	10	Ironmonger's Bill	1	9	0
Publications sold	2	11	0	Salaries of Assistant Secretary, Clerk, Porter, and Armourer	231	0	0
Annual Donation from East India Company for the years 1843 and 1844	210	0	0	Collector's Poundage	31	0	0
Donation from James Alexander, Esq.	100	0	0	Printer's Bill for Journal, No. XV., Parts 1 and 2	185	13	6
	369	2	10	Sewing Journal, &c.	12	9	8
Total Receipt in 1844	£998	1	10	Paper in Journal	16	16	0
In hand, end of 1843	291	14	0	Books and Periodicals	9	18	6
	£1289	15	10	Stationery and Sundry Printing	18	15	1
				Bookbinding, 8 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> ; Picture Frames, 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	9	15	0
				Postage and Carriage	14	2	7
				Miscellanies	14	4	8
					66	15	10
£1942 17 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i> in 3 per Cent Consols.				Total Expenditure in 1844	£912	14	0
				Balance in hand, 31 Dec., 1844	377	1	10
					£1289	15	10

STATEMENT No. 2.

ESTIMATED RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE for 1845.

ESTIMATED RECEIPT.		ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
From Annual Subscriptions and Arrears . . .	550 0 0	House-rent and Taxes . . .	250 0 0
Admission Fees, 15 at 5 guineas each . . .	78 15 0	House-expenses . . .	100 0 0
Compositions . . .	0 0 0	Salaries . . .	231 0 0
Annual Donation from East India Company . . .	105 0 0	Collector's poundage . . .	29 7 6
Dividends on Stock in 3 per cent Consols . . .	56 11 10	Printing Journal . . .	200 0 0
Annual Payment of Oriental Translation Fund for 1845 . . .	30 0 0	Books and Periodicals . . .	10 0 0
Ditto, for 1844 (not received in that Year) . . .	30 0 0	Stationery and Sundry Printing . . .	20 0 0
Sale of Publications . . .	25 0 0	Bookbinding, &c. . .	10 0 0
Donation from James Alexander, Esq. . .	100 0 0	Postage and Carriage . . .	15 0 0
		Miscellanies . . .	15 0 0
	£ 975 6 10	Moiety of Mr. Alexander's donation to be expended in Books . . .	50 0 0
Add Balance in hand, 31st December, 1844. . .	377 1 10		
			£ 930 7 6
		Estimated Balance in hand, 31st December, 1845	422 1 2
			£ 1352 8 8

After the reading of the foregoing Reports,

SIR RALPH RICE said that he rose with great satisfaction to move that the Reports which had now been read should be received. He had listened with deep interest to the notices of the eminent and distinguished persons who have been recently removed from the list of our associates; and had been particularly touched by the feeling manner in which the loss of our late accomplished Vice-President, Sir Gore Ouseley, was lamented. For himself, he knew no one in whom a high, gentlemanly bearing, and the readiness of kindly intercourse, were more completely united with sound learning, and extensive information, than in Sir Gore Ouseley. Though not personally acquainted with the other gentlemen named, he could estimate the value of such services as they had rendered; and he deplored their loss. Great indeed were the advantages produced in India by the influence of those whose talents and exertions are recorded in the Report just read. Happily for the interests, both of India and of England, the labours and discoveries of such men could be made speedily known by the facilities of communication now existing between Asia and Europe; and while valuable additions were made to our own stores of knowledge, a more general interest, it may be hoped, was being exerted in this country in favour of India, its productions, its history, and its people.

Sir Ralph Rice concluded by moving:—

“That the Reports of the Council and of the Auditors be received and adopted; and that the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Auditors for their attention to the interests of the Society, and the efficient discharge of the duties of their office.”

Seconded by SIR HERBERT COMPTON; and carried unanimously.

The HONORARY SECRETARY read the following letter which he had received from the EARL OF AUCKLAND, the President of the Society:

MY DEAR SIR,

Isle of Wight, May 15, 1845.

I find that I cannot with any convenience return to London before Monday next, and I regret therefore that I must forego the honor of taking the chair, at the ensuing anniversary meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society. You well know that my absence will not have been caused by any want of interest in the welfare of the Society, and I trust that whoever of our Council may take my place upon this occasion will duly make my excuse. I should the more regret my absence if I could foresee that any question of difficulty is likely to arise, but on the contrary our Report will, I think, appear to be fairly encouraging, and, with the good help of those who are inclined to work with us, it seems to promise a continued and highly satisfactory prosecution of the objects for which the Society was instituted.

1845.]

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We have indeed lost some of the most valuable of our members, but, on the other hand, valuable accessions have been made to us, and I trust that we shall still be found to be strong and efficient as we have been to all our purposes. Any doubt, indeed, upon this head would be removed by a reference to the list of our newly elected Resident Members; and in our foreign correspondence we have particularly to congratulate ourselves upon the good will which has been manifested towards us by Mr. Davis, the Governor of Hongkong, and upon our renewed intercourse with Major Rawlinson, now Resident at Baghdad. From each of these interesting quarters we may look for communications of much value; and I would further remark, that we should endeavour to turn even our late heavy losses to account. Our Report already promises valuable matter from the papers of the late Sir Gore Ouseley. We may hope that our correspondents at Bombay will enable us to profit by whatever of information the late Dr. Malcolmson may have collected; and I feel that the Society should particularly exert itself in endeavouring to bring before the public the results of the labours of the late Mr. Griffith. We have been frankly and liberally seconded by the Government, by the Court of Directors, by the Trustees of the British Museum, and by many scientific societies, in our desire to have executed a work illustrative of the fossils and geology of the Himalayan Hills; and I think that we may look with confidence to the countenance of the Honourable Court, if we should join with others, in endeavouring to promote a publication upon the Flora of India, from the papers and collections which have been bequeathed to the Company by Mr. Griffith. I cannot doubt but that these materials will be found to be of great value; and I believe that the publication would be popular, and that it could be accomplished at comparatively a small expense. I should look with confidence, in such a work, to the assistance of Dr. Horsfield and Dr. Royle at the India House, and I am satisfied that we should have voluntary support from many other quarters. It should not be lost sight of, that such a work might possibly, beyond its own intrinsic value, have that of fulfilling the twofold object, 1st, of justly doing honor to the name of Mr. Griffith; and 2ndly, of conferring some advantage upon those whose dependence rested upon his valuable life. These are but a few amongst the many objects to which we may look for the employment of the ensuing year, and our Report will, I trust, have proved that we have not been idle in the year that has passed. I have not with me papers to which I can refer, but I recollect particularly with satisfaction the proposed publication on the Himalayan fossils, the drawings which are in progress from the caves of India, and the elucidation of the impression taken from the ancient inscription on the rock in Peshawer, presented by Mr. Masson, as amongst the works of importance which are, in a great measure, due to the Society; and I would not pass over the interesting translations which have issued from our press, and the increased number of papers which have found a place in our Transactions.

I have but further to say, that, though the condition of our finances is

satisfactory, and our present income is sufficient to meet our present expenses, we must all feel that with increased means we could accomplish much more than we have yet accomplished, and that no exertions should be omitted which may promise to extend either the attractions or the efficiency of our Society. I could particularly wish that our rooms should be more generally resorted to; so that those who are interested in Asiatic subjects might be led conveniently and frequently to commune together; and, with this view, I would propose shortly to resume our evening meetings, and (for the day) it might be considered whether our library should not be made more complete as a library of reference; whether our number of periodical publications might not be advantageously increased; and particularly whether a day and hour might not sometimes be named, at which the presence of such Fellows of the Society as would like to assemble without the restraint of a formal meeting might be invited.

I am, very faithfully, &c.,

AUCKLAND.

The Honorary Secretary then laid on the table a copy of the superb lithographic drawings of some of the chief Cave Temples of India, designed to illustrate the Essay published in the fifteenth number of this Society's Journal, which had been that morning presented by the Author, James Fergusson, Esq.

The CHAIRMAN then addressed the Meeting as follows:—

The letter from Lord Auckland just read shows how deeply our noble President, whether present or absent, is interested in the successful progress of the Society; and it is gratifying that this talented nobleman, who was respected and beloved by the Indian community, should, on his return to his native land, seek to elicit new information respecting that interesting country,—to connect the ties between the governing and the governed,—and still to connect himself with those gentlemen of the Service whose merits and qualifications he learned to appreciate abroad.

I see this good example emulated by many distinguished men recently returned from India. I hail with pleasure the presence of that accomplished gentleman, Sir Edward Ryan, who so long and so efficiently presided over the Asiatic Society at Calcutta, to whom it is our good fortune to do honour this day in inviting him to become a Vice-President of this Society. And when I perceive such men as Mr. Prinsep, Mr. Bird, Mr. Anderson, and others, thickening our ranks, I look forward with hope to better times; for I have no hesitation in saying that this Society has never been duly patronized and appreciated by the great body of retired servants from India, of whom we have only hundreds as supporters instead of thousands; and I do say they owe a debt to India—that country which has elevated them to fame and fortune—which it is their duty to discharge, by co-operating in those endeavours which must ultimately tend to expand the intellectual intelli-

gence of the native population. I appeal to those high feelings they all possess, and entreat them to aid this great and good purpose.

Gentlemen, I am happy to say this desirable advance is fast progressing. The natives are gradually rising in our service to offices of trust; they perform high judicial functions with distinguished success; and are evincing a desire for knowledge which will more closely associate them with us in feeling and interest. In proof of this, I need only point out to you that we have in our present assembly four native gentlemen, who have volunteered to proceed to this country for the purpose of attaining a perfect medical and surgical education. To the honour of Dwárákanáth Tagore be it spoken, two of the number are provided for at his expense; of the other two, one will be maintained here at the expense of the East India Company, and the other is supported by a voluntary contribution. They are all placed under the charge of Dr. Goodeve, a gentleman high in his profession, who has long superintended the College of Surgery at Calcutta, and who, having overcome prejudices heretofore considered as insuperable, has successfully there taught the practice of anatomy. These, Gentlemen, are great strides in civilization; and I cannot but remark how much we are indebted for progress in science to the successful exertions of the Medical Members of the Company's Service; in support of this observation I would especially refer to the names of Dr. Horsfield, Dr. Royle, and Dr. Falconer.

In reviewing the names of departed benefactors, as enumerated in the obituary of the Report, I must say a few words in honour of my lamented friend, Sir Gore Ouseley, under whom I long served at the Court of Persia. He was an accomplished Oriental scholar, and was not only a correct speaker, but an able writer of the Persian language. He conducted his official correspondence on all delicate subjects with the Persian Ministers in his own handwriting, with a perspicuity of style, a propriety of idiom, and a skill in penmanship, which won the admiration of the Court. He obtained quite as much by amenity of manner, and by imperturbable placidity of disposition, in the conduct of diplomatic intercourse, as he won by readiness of talent. During our long intimacy I have seen him tried in varied circumstances, but I never knew him wound another's feelings, or make an unkind remark regarding an absent person; and he never omitted an opportunity of doing friendly offices.

I would wish to awaken your sympathies to the loss of a very talented and efficient public servant, the late Mr. John Lyall, Advocate-General of Bengal. This gentleman, brought up at Haileybury, and early imbibing an interest in whatever concerned the welfare of our Indian Empire, zealously connected himself with the proceedings of the Asiatic Society at Calcutta. And I will mention, what may not be known to all, that he undertook to deliver lectures on law to native students at Calcutta; so happily successful had been his endeavours, and so warmly had he attached this class to him, that they desired at his death to place a tablet in the church commemorative of their sense of his exertions for their benefit. If

these results should induce others to imitate his good example, they will find, as he did, that such offices are highly appreciated.

On the subject of native education generally I shall scarcely venture to touch, having on my left a gentleman whose powerful mind has been so successfully exercised in its promotion,—I allude to our respected Director, Professor Wilson. The extent to which the East India Company have encouraged the dissemination of learning, and the large amount annually appropriated to this purpose, are not sufficiently known. My indefatigable colleague and friend, Colonel Sykes, has most usefully employed his leisure in preparing “Statistics of the Educational Institutions of the East India Company in India,” showing the successful working out of these laudable endeavours by the local authorities at the three Presidencies, and exhibiting a proficiency attained by native students on scientific and literary subjects scarcely to be credited by those who have not examined or weighed the indubitable evidence of acquirement elicited in the examination of candidates for scholarships. I shall take the liberty of sending to the Society some copies of this compiled digest.

Gentlemen, I will only observe, in conclusion, that both in great governments and in small associations, the state of the purse is the criterion of prosperity: we cannot submit to that test. If the Indian community in England do their duty, our scale of utility may be vastly expanded.

SIR EDWARD RYAN said:—Sir, The Resolution which I hold in my hand requires no prefatory observations to ensure its adoption by the Society. It is sufficient that I should say it relates to the noble President, whose constant and zealous endeavours to promote the advance of literature and science in Asia and Europe, are well known to those by whom I am surrounded. It was my good fortune to be in India during the whole of the period when the Noble Lord presided over the government of that country; and in the character of President of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, the parent of this Institution, I had frequent opportunities of witnessing the great interest he took in advancing and encouraging the efforts of the Society. Its funds were increased by additional donations from Government, and the Society was thereby enabled greatly to enlarge its Museum of Natural History; to appoint a well qualified Curator, and to establish a Museum of Economic Geology; a Museum most useful for the purposes of comparison, and calculated to assist in developing the mineral resources of India. Nor was this all. His Lordship, in the selection of the localities for public officers, was not unmindful of the useful purposes to which the leisure of those officers might be applied, after the exigencies of the public service were satisfied. Men of talent and information were frequently placed where they might most advantageously employ such leisure as they could command, to the extension of knowledge in the particular branches of literature or science to which they were addicted. To one instance I cannot refrain from alluding: in the midst of all the preparation for that expedition to China which was

crowned with such signal success, and in the consideration of Naval, Military and Commissariat arrangements, the Noble Lord was not unmindful of science. He knew that facts might be observed by many men who could not make use of them for the valuable purposes which they were fitted to answer. Such persons chiefly needed to be told where they should look, and what they should seek for. His Lordship caused to be prepared and distributed among those who were sent on that expedition, a manual which would show them what to observe, in order that facts might thus be collected which should be dealt with afterwards for the benefit of science, by those who could appreciate their value, and draw from them legitimate results. I cannot help also alluding, in the presence of Dr. Goodeve and the native gentlemen formerly students of the Medical College at Calcutta, to what the fostering care of the Noble Lord has done for the Institution. It was under his Government that it assumed its present thriving and enlarged condition. He made all the arrangements,—selected most able and zealous gentlemen to fill the different chairs, and ultimately, when the students became qualified for practice, placed them at the principal cities of the Bengal Presidency in the charge of dispensaries, and thus gave to the natives, through their own countrymen, advice, medical and surgical, which they would shrink from receiving at the hands of Europeans.

It is unnecessary that I should say what the Noble Lord has done for the objects of this Society since his return to Europe; since he has been placed in your chair, you have been witnesses to his constant attendance at your meetings, and to his zealous and unremitting endeavours in all ways to promote your interests. In the Council, we who have had the honour of being associated with him, have seen the sound judgment which he has exercised in the management of all that relates to the Society.

The Society will pardon me if, before I sit down, I return thanks to our Chairman, Sir Henry Willock, for the kind mention he has made of my name, and for the flattering intimation that has been given of the intention of proposing that I should fill the office of one of your Vice-Presidents. I beg to move,—

“That the thanks of the Society be given to the Right Honourable the President, for his constant and ready attention to the affairs of the Royal Asiatic Society, and his unceasing endeavours to increase its efficiency and promote its interests.”

The motion being seconded by the **RIGHT HONOURABLE HOLT MACKENZIE**, was carried unanimously.

Mr. H. T. PRINSEP, in proposing a resolution of thanks to Sir Henry Willock, observed, that it must be highly gratifying to every member of the Society to see a gentleman presiding upon an occasion like the present, who so honourably filled the chair of the great Company with which so

many of those present had at one time been connected. He regarded the circumstance as an evidence of the good feeling towards the Society, which subsisted amongst those who had the direction of the affairs of that Company; and he felt satisfied that the Society might always be sure of a friend who would support its reasonable requests, and exert himself to assist its important purposes, so long as Sir H. Willock was a member of that Direction. If the Chairman had not personally assured the Meeting of his goodwill and devotion to those purposes, the proof of it existed in his past career, and in the services he had rendered to Oriental science and literature. For during a distinguished career in a quarter of Asia possessing in many respects peculiar interest to the student and to men of science, he never lost sight of the advantages which his influence and position afforded for inquiry and research, and with ardent zeal he devoted himself to the study of the living literature of the country in which he was so happily placed. During his service in Persia, Sir H. Willock formed a collection of Arsacidan and Sassanian coins, which is unequalled in completeness, and with rare liberality he had, since his return to Europe, presented his cabinet to the museum of the East India House. But Sir H. Willock had other claims to the thanks and gratitude of this Society, for he had long been an active Member of its Council, and in the midst of avocations public and personal never hesitated to make the sacrifice of his valuable time and convenience to assist in its pursuits, and in the general business of the Society. He had now given an example of his devotion, and of the interest he felt in its welfare, by devoting to the Society a large portion of a day, which every one would be sensible could ill be spared from the calls of such a situation as he now filled, in the administration of our great Empire in the East.

With these observations Mr. H. Prinsep moved, "That the special thanks of this Meeting be given to Sir Henry Willock, the Chairman of the East India Company, for his kindness in presiding on the present occasion, and for the interest which he has evinced in the prosperity and usefulness of this Society."

The motion was seconded by CAPTAIN EASTWICK, and carried unanimously.

JOHN MAC PHERSON MACLEOD, Esq. moved :—

"That the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Director, the Vice-Presidents, and the Council, for their zealous and able direction of the Society's operations during the past year."

Seconded by COLONEL DICKENSON; and carried unanimously.

The DIRECTOR, in acknowledging for himself and for the Vice-Presidents the favourable opinion of their services expressed by the Meeting, begged to

assure the Members of their undiminished interest in the credit and prosperity of the Society. Their exertions for these objects were, however, scarcely called for, as the personal share taken in their proceedings by their present noble President, and the efficient manner in which their zealous and able Secretary discharged his functions, left little for the other officers of the Society to perform. These examples, however, served rather to animate than repress their interest and zeal, and the Society might be satisfied that he and his colleagues would continue, in as far as lay in their power, to contribute to the Society's permanence and prosperity.

SIR GEORGE STAUNTON moved, "That the thanks of the Meeting be rendered to the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Librarian, for the attention and ability with which those officers have discharged their several duties."

Sir George said he felt it would be quite unnecessary for him to speak at any length respecting the important advantages the Society had reaped from the services of our excellent Secretary. He was persuaded that they were already perfectly well known and appreciated by every one present. Although he would be one of the last to undervalue the eminent services which had been rendered to the Society by our noble President, our learned Director, and by his distinguished brother Vice-Presidents, yet he must say that the office of Secretary was one of such paramount importance, in such an Institution as ours, that it appeared to him that the zeal and ability with which, regardless of the sacrifice of his time, its duties had been discharged by our present Secretary, had, in a more peculiar degree, contributed to the increased efficiency and generally improved condition of the Society, which it was so agreeable to hear announced in this year's Report.

The Society, Sir George observed, had equal reason, this year, to feel satisfied with the tendency to improvement in its finances, and the care which had been bestowed upon them by our worthy Treasurer, who, he felt confident, possessed such zeal for our interests, that he heartily responded to the general wish that his duties and responsibilities might annually increase and become heavier.

Similar commendation might justly be expressed with respect to the manner in which the duties of his office had been performed by our esteemed Librarian, who had the charge not only of our Library, but of our Museum. With respect to this department of our Society, he felt compelled to observe that its present inadequacy, and the slowness of its progress towards completion, could not with any justice be attributed to any want of zeal or alacrity in the Members of this Society in offering contributions, but solely, in fact, to the repeated disappointments we had hitherto unfortunately experienced in our endeavours to obtain a suitable locality at the public charge (such as had been granted to many other Institutions, possessing, in our opinion, inferior claims) for the reception of our collections. He was far, however, from despairing that the claims of the Royal Asiatic

Society would yet receive a just consideration, and that our Society would ultimately obtain that share of public favour and patronage to which it was, on public grounds, so well entitled.

Before he sat down, Sir George said, he could not but advert to the last very agreeable service our Secretary had rendered to the Society by conveying to the Chairman of the Court of Directors of the East India Company our unanimous wish that, under the existing circumstances which had deprived us of the presence of our noble President, he would do us the kindness, in his capacity of a Vice-Patron of the Society, to take the chair at the present anniversary. Sir George said he thought it was impossible to express too strongly the obligations we were under to him for having at once, and in the handsomest manner, yielded to our request. His justly-esteemed personal character, his important public services to his country abroad, and his present eminent official station at home, which places him in intimate relation, not only with the East India Company, over which he presides, but also occasionally with the Queen's Government, render the favour which he has conferred on us, by presiding here this day, and delivering to us from the chair the excellent and important address we have just heard, a testimony to the Society which is equally honourable and encouraging.

MR. CLARKE said that he could not but feel that the flattering commendations so kindly bestowed upon his humble exertions in the service of the Society by their highly respected Vice-President, Sir George Staunton, far exceeded their real value, for the only merit he could claim for them was that they were most willingly rendered. If he was enabled to facilitate the progress, and further the objects, of those whose labours and researches contributed to the usefulness and upheld the character of this important Society, he felt himself highly honoured in being thus engaged. But the Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society ought himself to add to those stores of knowledge, and to enlarge the boundaries of learning and science. He looked forward to the period when some such gifted person would assume the duties of Secretary; till that should be the case, however, and so long as his services were viewed in so favourable a light, and received in a manner so gratifying to his feelings, he could not but deem it a privilege to continue his best exertions.

He must, however, be allowed to advert to the great claims which his excellent coadjutor, Mr. Norris, had upon the notice and esteem of the Society. Besides the constant attendance he gave at the Society's house,—his readiness at all times to impart the varied and extensive knowledge he possessed, in languages, history, geography, and science generally, especially as connected with the East, his favourite field of research,—he had lately laboured with untiring perseverance, laborious minuteness, and successful as well as scrupulous care, to prepare a faithful transcript of a very important inscription, of which portions only had, during a course of many years, been

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rendered accessible to the Oriental archæologist. This important achievement had well entitled him to the most honourable commendation, which he solicited on behalf of him whom he might fitly term his better half.

MR. ELLIOTT returned thanks, and said that he had every hope that the Society would become more prosperous; and that any additional trouble which should be thrown on him from that cause would be to him a source of additional gratification.

MR. SHAKESPEAR returned thanks.

SIR GEORGE STAUNTON said that, having been the mover of the thanks to the officers of the Society, he was anxious to express his cordial assent to the proposition to include in that vote the name of the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Edwin Norris. His valuable labours, and his general zeal and assiduity in his office, have long been known and felt by the Society, but have recently been brought more prominently into view by his interesting and remarkably successful labours in tracing and explaining the extraordinary inscription from Kapur di Giri.

Sir George therefore considered Mr. Norris in every way deserving of the proposed testimony of the confidence and approval of the Society.

MR. NORRIS rose to thank the Meeting for the unexpected honour done him. He said his anxious wish was to discharge his duty with fidelity; and he trusted he could claim credit so far. With regard to the occasion which had obtained for him the present distinction, he felt that he owed much of it to a lucky accident, and to the suggestion of a friend more learned than himself. He begged to be allowed to express his sincere thanks to all for the kindness with which his endeavours were received, and more especially to those with whom his official duties more closely connected him, whose kindness made that a pleasure which might otherwise be an onerous duty.

SIR ROBERT CAMPBELL moved, "That the renewed and cordial thanks of this Society be offered to James Alexander, Esq., for his third munificent donation to their funds, and for the lively interest he has evinced in their affairs by the judicious and discriminating directions regarding the appropriation of his noble gift."

The motion was seconded by DR. HORSFIELD; and carried unanimously.

HENRY S. GRÆME, Esq., and DR. ROGERS having been appointed Scrutineers, the Meeting proceeded to ballot for the officers of the Society and for the new Members of Council.

The following was the result of the ballot :—

THE RIGHT HON. SIR EDWARD RYAN was declared unanimously elected to the office of Vice-President of the Society, vacant by the death of the Right Hon. Sir Gore Ouseley.

The nine undermentioned gentlemen were unanimously elected into the Council, to fill up the vacant places of those Members who go out by rotation :—

The Right Hon. the Earl of Powis.
The Right Hon. Lord Viscount Jocelyn, M.P.
The Right Hon. Lord Francis Egerton, M.P.
Sir Thos. Edw. Colebrooke, Bart., M.P.
Major-Gen. J. Briggs, F.R.S.
Major-Gen. J. Caulfeild, C.B.
James Fergusson, Esq.
Capt. Wm. J. Eastwick.
G. W. Anderson, Esq.

On the motion of the **DIRECTOR**, the thanks of the Meeting were unanimously voted to Sir Henry Willock for his able and courteous conduct in the Chair.

The compliment was acknowledged by the Chairman, and the Meeting adjourned to the 7th June.

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1842—1844.

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A. Balbi's Allgemeine Erdbeschreibung, Eine systematische Encyclopädie der Erdkunde. 8vo. Pesth, 1842	} <i>The Author.</i>
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The Kamus; in Persian. 4 Vols. Folio	- - -	
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A Dictionary, Hindoostanee and English, abridged from the Quarto Edition of Mr. Joseph Taylor, as edited by the late W. Hunter, M.D. By W. C. Smyth, Esq. 8vo. London, 1820	- - -	<i>The Author.</i>
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ORIENTAL TEXTS, MSS., &c.

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The Naishada-Charita; or, Adventures of Nala Raja of Naishada; a Sanskrit Poem. Part I. 8vo. Calcutta, 1836	East India Company.
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„ Testament. 8vo. (no title page)	
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