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V. OBITUARY NOTICES.

Colonel Joseph Ouseley.—One of the oldest officers of the Bengal Army, and a tried and sound Oriental Scholar, died in his ninetieth year in the month of November. He was born at Limerick, June 21, 1800, and went to India in 1819. In 1822 a Degree of Honour for extraordinary proficiency in the Arabic Language, and high proficiency in the Persian and Urdu Languages, was conferred upon him by the College of Fort William. In 1824 he became Assistant Professor of the Sanskrit, Marathi, and Bengāli Languages: in 1825 he became Professor; for a short time he was Superintendent of the Mysore Princes, who were then domiciled at Calcutta, as well as Secretary to the College of Fort William, and in that capacity all the Members of the Bengal Civil Service, on their arrival, studied the languages under

his direction, and received from him certificates of competency, or diplomas of honour: the compiler of this notice deems it one of the greatest honours, that befell him in his career, that in 1844 he received from the hands of Colonel Ouseley a Degree of Honour in Persian. In that year he left India, and was appointed to the post of Professor of Arabic and Persian at the East India College at Hailebury, and held that post until the College was finally closed in 1859: since which period he enjoyed a well-deserved pension. In 1862 he was appointed one of the Examiners in Oriental Languages to the Civil Service Commission, and held that post till 1883, having been thus engaged since 1824, for the period of sixty years, in the teaching, and examining, of Oriental Languages.

It does not appear that he has left any published works behind him, nor was he a scientific linguist in the sense now attached to that word: he knew the languages, which he had acquired practically to read, write, and speak, and long experience had made him a first-rate examiner: his genial manner, and noble appearance, helped to endear him to all, with whom he came into contact.

On one occasion he was employed by the Foreign Office on a special duty outside his ordinary avocations. In 1857, when the treaty of peace with the Shah of Persia was arranged at Paris, and the British Plenipotentiary had occasion for a trusted interpreter, the choice naturally fell on Colonel Ouseley: he had many interviews with the Persian Plenipotentiary, and matters were brought to a satisfactory conclusion: he received the thanks of Lord Palmerston, and an honorarium of 100 guineas.—R. N. C.

Professor August Engelbrecht Ahlquist.—Died at Helsingfors, Finland, on the 20th of November last, aged 63, a scholar of rare attainments and of special erudition, whose loss, we regret to say, will not be easy to replace. His native land loses in him an accomplished savant and a poet of the first rank, and the Science of Philology an unquestioned authority on the Finn-Ugor languages. By his

own people he was beloved, as the most popular lyrical poet of their age; many of his songs have become household words in the northern homes.

Filled at an early age with a love for his mother-tongue, Ahlquist devoted himself with youthful ardour to its cultivation. After completing his academical studies, he undertook laborious journeys into the North-eastern Provinces of the Russian Empire, visiting Karelia, and the countries on both sides of the Ural Mountains, and particularly the homesteads of the Ostjak and Vogul tribes, and explored Siberia. With similar object he visited Hungary and was elected, in 1859, Member of the Academy of Sciences of Budapest. Ahlquist continued with great industry to enrich the stores of his linguistic knowledge, especially with reference to the particular department of his favourite research. On the death of Professor Lonnröt in 1863, he was elected to fill the vacant Chair of Finn Language and Literature at the University of Helsingfors. Works published by Professor Ahlquist are very numerous. The Linguistic Treatises on the various idioms of the Finn-Ugor branches were of essential value, being, in some instances, the first attempts in that particular field of research. Besides his treatises on the Finn language, he wrote a grammar of the Vot and Veps dialects in Swedish, and on the Moksha-Mordvin dialect in the German language, and he published a Monograph on the North Ostjak tongue, and made researches as to the affinity of the Magyar and Finn languages.

Ahlquist's travels in Russia were published in Swedish and in German; and the interesting account of his journeyings among the Vogul and Ostjak tribes, published in German at Helsingfors, in 1883, found an extensive circle of readers. To his mother-tongue he rendered a special tribute in his Finnish "Poetik," in which he endeavoured to lay down laws of Finnish Prosody. Another treatise on the "Culture of Words" contains researches as to the most ancient origin of Finn civilization. Ahlquist rendered also essential service in translating portions of the Scriptures into dialects quite unknown before him, and he was about to engage in more

extensive work for the British and Foreign Bible Society, when death put a stop to his useful labours.—T. D.

Professor Kremer.—In Baron Alfred Kremer, who died suddenly on Friday, December 27, 1889, at Doebling, near Vienna, at the age of 62, Austria has lost a distinguished Oriental scholar, and an eminent statesman. The deceased began his career in the Diplomatic Service, and for many years filled important posts in Egypt. In 1870 he was appointed Consul-General at Beyrout. In 1880 he entered the Taaffe Cabinet as Minister of Commerce, but gave in his resignation after six months, as he was asked to surrender on a point in which conscience was involved. He remained firm to his political convictions, although a personal appeal was made to him by the Emperor; and he left office without a single honour being conferred upon him. He afterwards described this struggle as the greatest which had fallen to his lot during his long public life. His death was quite unexpected. He had just recovered from an attack of influenza, and, considering himself quite well, took a warm bath and went out for a walk. He was immediately seized with inflammation of the lungs, and died within 24 hours. He was President of the Seventh International Congress at Vienna in 1886, and was present at the Eighth Congress at Stockholm in 1889. He had just sold his valuable collection of Arabic Books and MSS. to the British Museum.—R. N. C.

Colonel Sir Henry Yule, K.C.S.I., C.B., LL.D., R.E.—The Royal Asiatic Society has a title and aims which cover a large area of ground and embrace many kinds of Oriental learning and research. The Society is now mourning the loss of one of its members who was foremost in that department of labour in Eastern fields to which his taste and powers directed him. Sir Henry Yule was President of this Society in 1886 and 1887, and in his opening address on 17th May, 1886, he spoke of finding himself in that chair "somewhat unaccountably to himself." But his title to occupy that position was well recognized by others, though the qualifica-

tions which in his eyes scarcely justified the honour were not of the same class as those which were brought to the chair by the most distinguished of his predecessors.

It was not as an authority on any of the classic languages of the east and their literature, or as an interpreter of ancient inscriptions, or as an original explorer in the walks of eastern science, ethnology, religions, dialects, or the like; it was not on such grounds that he was chosen to preside over the Royal Asiatic Society. Apart from these, yet in contact with them all, are the lines of Oriental research which he so happily followed, and in which he was unsurpassed. To the study which aimed at presenting to English readers in pleasing and intelligible shape, eastern narratives and discussions, questions of Oriental history and geography, sciences and arts, and, generally, matters relating to Asia, ancient and modern, of real interest but little known,—to these objects of inquiry he brought qualifications of a high order,—a sound knowledge of the ancient languages of Greece and Rome, mastery of the principal tongues of modern Europe, and personal acquaintance with several eastern countries, their people and their languages; above all an insatiable spirit of research, having at its command all these helps and instruments, to be used in throwing on the matter in hand all the light that could be got, all the evidence and illustration that could be found, in all quarters, far and near. Everything he produced was characterized by thoroughness of investigation and accuracy of detail, and enlivened by a wealth of note and comment that laid all he had to say clearly and completely before the general reader, the scholar, and the critic. To this Society he rendered personal services for many years, as an influential member of the Council, whose full stores of knowledge were ever at hand, and whose experience gave him strength in the management of business. If he found himself “somewhat unaccountably” in the President’s chair, the choice had commended itself amply to the Society which placed him there.

Henry Yule, son of Major William Yule of the East India Company’s service, at one time Resident at Lucknow, was born at Inveresk in Midlothian on 1st May, 1820. He was

educated at the High School of Edinburgh, then under the Rectorship of Dr. Carson. In February, 1837, he joined the East India Company's Military College at Addiscombe, which he left in December of the following year, at the head of the list, and appointed to the Engineer service. After the usual term of duty and instruction at the headquarters of the Royal Engineers at Chatham, he went to India.

In connection with the first two duties to which he was appointed after arrival at Calcutta, opportunities were presented to him which gave a direction to the studies and inquiries so profitably pursued in after-years. The Kásia hills, three hundred miles north-east of Calcutta, were not much known in those days, and he furnished interesting reports of the country, the people, the iron mines, the groups of erect unhewn stones, etc., and on the climate, with the astonishing annual rainfall at Chira Punjí, which may be recorded in *feet*. Then after this, when he was employed on the Western Jamna Canals, with headquarters at Karnál, chance (as we call it) threw in his way a "Canal Act of the Emperor Akbar," dated in Shawál, A.H. 978 (March, A.D. 1571), which had been obtained by his friend Captain (now Major-General) Saunders Abbott, in the course of his civil duties in the adjoining district of Kaithal. Captain Abbott's translation was printed with "some notes and remarks" by Lieut. Yule, which are a sort of brief and light index of the manner of annotation followed exhaustively in later and larger works. The papers on the Kásia hills, and this Canal Act in English, with Lieut. Yule's notes, were published in the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*.

In 1846, after the close of the Satlaj campaign, he was transferred to the charge of the Northern Division of the Ganges Canal, then under construction. On return from a furlough to England, he was employed (1852) to examine and report upon the passes between Arakan and Burma. The report was published in the first No. of the *Papers on Indian Engineering*, printed at the Engineering College at Roorkee. About eighteen months after the conclusion of the second Burmese war in 1853, the king sent a mission to the Governor-

General, Lord Dalhousie, and shortly afterwards a return mission, conducted by Colonel Arthur Phayre, was sent to Ava. Lord Dalhousie selected Captain Yule (at that time an Assistant Secretary to Government in the railway department) to accompany the Envoy as his Secretary, mainly for the purpose of writing a narrative of the Mission. This took the form of the large and handsome volume entitled, *Mission to the Court of Ava*, published in 1858. It exhibits the completeness with which he collected such information as was then open to a British Mission to that country. Much has become known since, in which, in later years, he took the greatest interest, corresponding with travellers and others engaged in the more recent researches. The narrative of the Mission in 1855 is largely illustrated by his own drawings. The picture of the Audience Hall and Reception of the Envoy is from a sketch made under some difficulty, when the members of the Mission were seated on the floor, in a fashion very comfortless to English officers in uniform, and the Secretary's pencil was at work inside his cocked hat. The narrative is full of interest, with ample annotations, and additional matter from other sources in an appendix.

In the Mutiny days of 1857 and 1858 Captain Yule was chiefly employed at Allahabad, and it was there he completed the Burma book and wrote the Preface. On the restoration of quiet he resumed work in the Secretariat Office of the Government of India, and was soon in the same friendly relations with Lord Canning that he had been with Lord Dalhousie. The esteem with which they regarded him was greatly deepened by his having been much with them in a time of great personal sorrow,—the death of Lady Dalhousie in England, and of Lady Canning in Calcutta. His fellow-feeling with others, in their sorrows and their joys, was constant. Very many years ago Dr. Duff, in Calcutta, who knew him well, spoke to one of his friends of the deep power of sympathy in his character, and his generous support of benevolent objects. All his friends knew the warmth of his affection. The same warmth that filled his affection for his friends and sympathy with suffering could show itself also

in other ways. By nature and habit irritable, he was vexed with needless or ignorant opposition, he "resented prolix talk," as he said himself in one of his printed papers, he was indignant with everything that seemed to him to put right for wrong and wrong for right, he was often impatient, in small things as in great, even with the best of friends. Yet nothing could touch or weaken the wonderful power he had of drawing friends to him, and securing their continued friendship. His helping hand was ever ready for all who needed and desired his help for good and useful ends, and no small amount of his time, whether he was in or out of office, was thus made over to the service of others.

A time of much literary activity followed his retirement from India in 1862. Before leaving Calcutta he printed for private distribution a collection of small pieces, in prose and verse, called *Fragments of Unprofessional Papers gathered from an Engineer's Portfolio*. At the same time also was published his lecture entitled *Sketches of Java*, from his own notes of a visit to that island on a short leave of absence. The lecture was delivered a few days before his departure from Calcutta.

Coming to Europe, he resided, on account of his wife's health, at various places in Italy, and lastly at Palermo, where, after a protracted illness of many years, she died. In 1863, when Genoa was their place of abode for a time, he published, as one of the Hakluyt Society's volumes, his translation of the *Mirabilia Descripta* of Friar Jordanus. In 1866 he compiled, for the same Society, a collection of medieval notices of China, which he entitled *Cathay, and the Way Thither*. The subject of this book, and the amount and variety of material he found in the Italian public libraries, led to the preparation of the great work with which his name is specially connected, and by which he is most widely known, the *Book of Ser Marco Polo*, published in 1871. The interest attached to this work is partly in the Venetian traveller's own narrative, now translated afresh from better sources than were before available, but far more in the abundant and learned annotations supplied by the editor. The quaint fashion of the English translation gives a

medieval flavour to the story, which helps the reader to find himself listening to Marco himself speaking English. And the way in which the editor had been steeped in medieval French, when poring over the books that were to yield up their best to him, is illustrated in the story of the dream in the Preface to the second edition, of which he had made an English translation shortly before his death. It is not surprising that a second edition of this book, which is the first greatly enriched, should have been issued in 1875. It is a Marco Polo differing not in degree of excellence only but in kind from all that have gone before.

In 1873 Colonel Yule wrote an essay on the geography of the Oxus Valley, as an introduction to the new edition of the *Journey to the Source of the Oxus*, by Captain John Wood of the Indian Navy. To the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society in 1872 Colonel Yule contributed *An Endeavour to elucidate Rashid-ud-din's Geographical Notices of India*, and *Remarks on the Senbyü Pagoda at Mengun*. In the same Journal he also published two papers in 1874, *Notes on Hweng Thsang's Account of Tocharistan* (written in 1872) and *a Note on Northern Buddhism*.

A condensed edition of Captain Gill's book *The River of Golden Sand* was published in 1883, the year after his murder in the Desert of Sinai along with Prof. Palmer and Lieut. Charrington. The geographical introduction and the memoir of Captain Gill are from the pen of Colonel Yule, as also is the memorial inscription in the crypt of St. Paul's in honour of the three. Captain Gill used to speak in the most grateful terms of Colonel Yule's great kindness to him in the course of the preparation of his narrative, and the advice and assistance he was always ready to give. So also can many others speak.

A note by Colonel Yule on the *Rock-cut Caves of Bamian* appeared in the Journal of the R.A.S. in 1886, introductory to a paper by Captain the Hon. M. G. Talbot, R.E., Captain Maitland, and Mr. W. Simpson.

In the same year, 1886, appeared one of the most generally interesting of Colonel Yule's works, the *Glossary of Anglo-*

Indian Words. It was begun in concert with his friend Mr. Burnell of the Madras Civil Service, whose early death left the work to be done by his colleague. Any one page of this book will show the amount of care and research bestowed upon it, with learning of wide range and many kinds. Few people would be disposed to look to a Glossary for entertainment as well as instruction. But they may find both in this volume, together with curious little disquisitions on curious points. Moreover, they do not need to be Anglo-Indians to find much pleasant reading in it.

A list of his works up to this time would include many memoirs of friends and brother officers. The affection he bore to them in their lifetime found some satisfaction in writing of them when they were gone. Minor pieces in prose and verse and contributions to periodicals would have to be added.

Three more volumes by Colonel Yule were published by the Hakluyt Society in 1889. One might not expect to find matter of much interest in the *Diary of William Hedges*. Very few who take up these volumes ever heard of William Hedges, or would care to know about him. But Colonel Yule, after his manner, makes the Diary a text on which he discourses pleasantly about the early days of the English in Bengal and other subjects, enlivening the story with sketches of the associates and contemporaries of William Hedges (afterwards Sir William), with materials for a biography of Thomas Pitt, Governor of Madras, a history of the Pitt Diamond, and notes from many quarters.

In much bodily weakness these three volumes were prepared for the press. A wasting disease had long been breaking down his physical energy, which diminished, as it seemed, day by day, till on the 30th December, 1889, he quietly passed away.

It is not out of place to notice here his deep interest in another institution which carries the word *Asiatic* in its title,—the *Strangers' Home for Asiatics* at Limehouse. From the time when his attention was first drawn to it, and he saw its work, his compassion was drawn out towards the unhappy

seafaring and other Asiatics cast adrift in London between being paid off after one voyage and being taken on for another, with little knowledge of the language spoken around them, the prey of low lodging-house keepers about the docks, and of the unprincipled of all classes. He warmly took up the advocacy of this true Strangers' Home, pleading the obligation of those who have derived some part at least of their means from India and other countries of the East to do something to help the people of those countries thus thrown among us here as strangers and foreigners. It was a pleasure to him also to find that the missionary, Mr. Small, who was attached to the Home, and visited the ships to rescue the poor lascars, was one whom he had known in India, and even so far back as High School days in Edinburgh. One of the last notes dictated from his sick bed was to his friend Mr. Fergusson, the Honorary Secretary of the Home for Asiatics, sending a contribution to its funds.

It would be going too far from the proper course of this notice of Sir Henry Yule in the pages of the Royal Asiatic Society's Journal to refer to other good objects which engaged his interest and obtained his help. But so much on behalf of the Asiatics' Home may rightly be said. It is pleasant, when we are directing our regard to his place among eastern scholars, to his services to the State, in India and at home, and to a literary and scientific Society concerned with eastern affairs, to feel how we can also respect and love his warm large-hearted sympathy with unfriended eastern people.

Colonel Yule was in 1863 enrolled among the Civil Companions of the Bath. He was appointed a Member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India in 1875. At the tercentenary of the University of Edinburgh in 1883 he was one of the men of learning who received the honorary degree of LL.D. The honour of Knighthood in the Order of the Star of India was conferred on him in 1889 (not then offered for the first time). And in the week before his death a telegram from Paris announced to him that he had been made a Corresponding Member of the Institute of France.—R. M.

Prof. Pavet de Courteille.—The death is announced of the distinguished Professor of Turkish at the College de France. He was decorated with the Legion of Honour in 1866, and in March, 1873, was elected a Member of the Académie des Inscriptions in the place of Vicomte de Rougé. He leaves behind him the following works :

Conseils de Nabi Effendi à son fils Aboul Khair. Texte et Traduction. 8vo. 1857.

Kemal-pasha Zadeh. *Histoire de la Campagne de Mohaiz.* Texte et Traduction. 8vo. 1857

Dictionnaire Turc et Orientale. 8vo. 1870.

Mémoires de Baber. Traduit sur le Texte Djagataï. 2 vols. 8vo. Paris, 1871.

Mirâdj-Nameh. Texte et Trad. annoté. 8vo. Paris, 1882.

He also assisted M. Barbier de Meynard in preparing the first four volumes of Maçoudi, *Les Prairies d'Or*.

VI. NOTES AND NEWS.

A translation into Urdu of Professor Rhys Davids's 'Buddhism' has been published at Muradābād.

Kalahe Gunūnanda Unnānse has published at Colombo an edition of Jñāna-kitti's 'Bhikshu - prātimoksha - gaṅṭhi - dīpaniya.'

Convert to Buddhism.—A remarkable ceremony took place the other day at Colombo. It was no less than the admission of a Christian from America, who recently arrived in Ceylon, into the Buddhist creed. The proceedings took place in the Theosophist Hall, under the guidance of the Buddhist High Priest, assisted by eleven yellow-robed monks. The convert, who was apparently prepared for the function, knelt before the assembled priests, and intimated his desire to be admitted as a member of the Buddhist Church. The High Priest then catechised him, and the assembled monks having satisfied themselves that the gentleman was fitted to be a follower of their noble teacher, assisted in admitting him as one. The gentleman, whose name was Powell, then begged of the High Priest "to