

Literature.

ORIENTAL TRANSLATIONS.

[Deeming this to be one of the most important literary undertakings of the age, we offer no excuse for our details of it, or for allotting a considerable space to them in our Gazette, even at a period when we have unusual number of urgent claims upon it.]—*Quebec Gaz. by Authority, Aug. 21.*

AFTER the report, of which we gave a complete epitome in our last, was read, various resolutions founded upon it were submitted to the Meeting by Lord Melville, Mr. Wynne, Sir A. Johnston, and other distinguished friends of the plan, who were present on the occasion. Sir A. Johnston addressed them at some length, taking an historical review of its origin and progress, and pointing out some of the extraordinary effects which might be anticipated from its general diffusion, and the exertions of its members and supporters. But that with which we were most struck, was his account of the interest taken in British Literature, the fine arts and sciences, by some of the sovereign princes of India, as well as by Bramins and others of different castes, whom we scarcely imagined to have bestowed a thought on such matters. Thus it appeared that the Rajah of Tanjore * had recently been elected an honorary member of the Royal Asiatic Society, upon the same principle which had previously led to the election of the Rajah of Sattarah; namely, his great love for, and encouragement of, the fine arts, science, and literature. The introduction and cultivation of European intelligence by princes so influential as these, is likely to produce very important results in India; and we are the less surprised to find, that their subjects are following in the footsteps of their rulers, as the following remarkable letter (which we print also as a literary curiosity) will show. It is written verbatim, in the English language, as we copy it, and addressed by a Hindu, a Bramin, to the Committee of Correspondence of the Asiatic Society:—

"Gentlemen,—With sentiments of respect, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a very kind letter from you, together with a copy of the Prospectus of the Society.

"Your proposal to insert my name among your correspondents is most gratifying to me, and I beg to present my best and respectful thanks for the honor the Society intends conferring, which cannot but be highly acceptable to me.

"Born and residing in such a country as this, where mechanical knowledge is very little cultivated, it cannot be expected that the natives should possess any elevated degree of knowledge in arts and manufactures, with the exception of what they are daily practising, the scanty remains of that which their forefathers had left, and the knowledge of which has descended through Mahomedan despotism and cruelty. As your invitation is flattering, I will not, however, fail to take every opportunity of keeping awake our correspondence connected with the sciences and polite literature of the Hindus.

"The formation of societies for the promotion of the knowledge of science and literature in general, as well as of arts and manufactures, is beneficial to the country where such bodies are united; but when they link with similar societies or individuals of talent in other countries by correspondence, the benefit arising therefrom is universal, especially when those learned men communicate their ideas to one another without regard to nation or religion.

"In this good work the Europeans have far surpassed other nations; and allow me to express my admiration of the plan the Society has adopted for the diffusion of knowledge, by opening a correspondence with the natives of Hindostan, who cannot but feel immeasurable pleasure and gratitude at the conviction, that their rulers, in common with your society, are ever watchful to promote the welfare of the ruled, by the dissemination of the knowledge of literature and arts among them.

"As the report of the Calcutta Agricultural Society of which I have the honor to be Vice-President, will soon be published, I need not give you an account of the same here.

"Some time ago, I published a Bengali Spelling-book, in imitation of a similar useful work in English by Mr. Lindley Murray, a copy of which, as well as a copy of the first volume of a copious Dictionary, entirely in Sanscrit, compiled by me, on the plan of an Encyclopedia, I beg leave to send; and request the Society will have the goodness to give them a place in their library, allowing me at the same time permission to transmit the subsequent volumes, with the preface and appendix, when issued from the press.

"Having lately had occasion to refer to the Agni Purana, I found a passage therein, which convinced me, that the division of the day and night into twenty-four hours, from midnight to midnight, by Europeans, is of Sanscrit origin; and as it may be a point deemed desirable to be known by many English gentlemen, I beg leave to transcribe the original, * accompanied with a translation of it.

"Ghatike dwe muhūrtah syāt tai strinsatyā divā nise; Chaturyinsati belā bhī rahorātram prachasyate. Sūryodayādi vijñāte muhūrtānām cramah sadā, Paschimā dardha rātrādi horānām vidyate cramah.

"Two ghatikas make one muhūrtah, of which thirty a day and night. Twenty four belas are said to constitute a day and night. It is to be remarked, that the course of the muhūrtas is invariable from sun-rise, and that of the horās from midnight."

"The interpretation of the above two quatrains is this: that thirty muhūrtas are equal to a day and a night, which are comprised in twenty-four belas or horās, and that the computation of day and night by thirty muhūrtas is from sun-rise to sun-rise; and that by twenty-four belas or horās, from midnight to midnight. Hence, from it appears, that the word hour is probably derived from the Sanscrit term horā, especially when the exact correspondence of the latter with the Greek and Latin hora is considered.

"Wishing you success, in your benevolent exertions towards effecting the objects of your interesting Society, I remain, with due respect and regard, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

Calcutta,

RADHAKANT DEB.*

20th May, 1827.

But to return to the two Rajahs, † from whose characters, habits, and pursuits, this letter has diverted our attention; it may be explanatory to state, that when Rajah of Sattarah was elected, it was part of the motion of Sir A. Johnston to read some passages of an address from that sovereign to the Hon. Mr. Elphinstone on his leaving the Presidency of Bombay. The extracts referred to are curious, as marking the wide difference between past and present times in India. Formerly rupees and diamonds would have been the royal testimony of approbation: now, the expression takes a higher and better tone.

"Permit us," says the Rajah, "to acquaint you that in order to evince that we are ourselves fully persuaded that no melioration can be of more incalculable benefit to this country than the diffusion amongst our children and countrymen of that extensive knowledge, those noble modes of thinking, those wise and liberal principles of government, and those sublime views of moral rectitude, by which the British are so eminently distinguished, we have determined to raise a subscription amongst ourselves, which at the present moment amounts to upwards of two lacs of rupees, for the purpose of founding one or more professorships for teaching the languages, literature, sciences, and moral philosophy of Europe. Nor can we doubt that you will be pleased to comply with our earnest solicitation, that we may be allowed to honour these professorships, as a slight testimony of our unceasing gratitude, with that name which we so rever and admire, and to designate them the 'Elphinstone Professorships'; and that you will permit your portrait to be drawn by an able artist in England, in order that we may place it in the rooms of the Native Education Society, as a permanent memorial of the liberal and enlightened founder and protector of that Society.

"(Sealed and signed by the Rajah of Sattarah and other Native Chiefs, &c.)"

Having shewn, by these singular documents, the progress of knowledge, and the vanishing of prejudices in the vast peninsula of India, we shall not prolong this subject farther at present; but conclude by wishing the utmost success to the Oriental Translation Society, whose labours promise to expedite and extend these important and desirable objects in a manner at once very interesting to literature, and highly beneficial in every other point of view.

L. G.

* It is a fact worth recording, that Sir A. Johnston, who is as well acquainted with the feelings and wishes of the Rajah, as he is with those of other native princes, in sending a present to this monarch, could think of nothing more appropriate than a bust of Nelson. One from the chisel of Mrs. Damer was accordingly sent, together with his highness's diploma. The Rajah has already erected a splendid monument in his kingdom, to commemorate the great achievements of our naval and military heroes during the late war.

* We do not trouble our readers with the Sanscrit text.—Ed. L. G.

† Is there one of our thousands of readers who had any conception of such a state of European literary and scientific intelligence as this letter exhibits among the natives of Hindostan?!!—Ed.

‡ The Rajah of Tanjore, though a Hindu Sovereign, was educated by Mr. Schwartz, the well known and distinguished missionary, who probably implanted in his pupil's breast a predilection for European intelligence.—His palace is adorned with statues, pictures, from England and the continent; his library filled with well selected English books, and several of the periodical journals and newspapers published in London are regularly read by this eastern potentate. By his example he has succeeded in removing many prejudices from the higher castes of his people; and innovations and changes of which a Bramin would not have dared to dream thirty years ago, have been made without a murmur, and will pave the way to still greater alterations.

ADMINISTRATION NOTICES.

ALL Persons having any demands against the Estate of TITUS KNAPP, late of Westmoreland, Esquire, deceased, are requested to render their accounts duly attested, and all those indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to Mr GEORGE ALLEN, of Westmoreland aforesaid, the Attorney of CATHERINE KNAPP, Executrix.

Westmoreland, N. B. 16th August, 1828. 3m

ALL persons having claims upon the Estate of the late JACOB RING, are requested to render their accounts duly attested, within twelve months from the date hereof: And all persons indebted to said Estate, are also requested to settle their accounts within the same period.

ANN RING, Adm'r, St John, JARVIS RING, } Adm'rs, AARON HART } Fredericton.

Fredericton, March 17, 1828

THOSE persons having legal demands against the Estate of the late SAMUEL KENDALL, jun. Druggist, are requested to present the same, duly attested, within Twelve Months from this date, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to either of the Subscribers.

RICHARD DIBBLE, Fredericton, } Adm'rs, WM O SMITH, Saint John, } 12m.

Fredericton, April 15, 1828.

ALL persons having any legal demands against the Estate of JOHN HAZEN, Esq., late of Burton, in the County of Sunbury, deceased, are requested to render their Accounts duly attested within six Months from the date hereof; and all persons indebted to said estate, are requested to make immediate payment to

PRISCILLA HAZEN, Ex'ix, JAMES HAZEN, } Ex'rs, ROBERT HAZEN, }

Burton, March 20, 1828.

ALL persons having any just demands against the estate of Daniel Hallett, late of the Parish of Douglas, in the County of York, deceased, are requested to render their accounts duly attested within twelve months from the date hereof: and all persons indebted to said estate, are requested to make payment forthwith to

DANIEL HALLETT, Ex'r.

Douglas, March 29, 1828.

ALL persons having any just demands against the Estate of William Perley, late of Maugerville, County of Sunbury, deceased, are requested to render their accounts duly attested within six months from the date hereof; and all those indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to either of the Subscribers;

SOLOMON PERLEY, } Adm'rs, SAMUEL NEVERS, }

August 5, 1828.

ALL persons having claims against the estate of the late Thomas Wetmore, Esq., deceased, will render the same: and those indebted to the said estate, will make payment to either of the subscribers.

C. P. WETMORE, } Ex'rs, THOMAS C. LEE, }

April 1, 1828.

ALL Persons having claims upon the the Estate of the late George Leonard Hazen, late of Chatham, in the County of Northumberland, are requested to render their accounts duly attested within Twelve Months from the date hereof to Francis Peabody, Administrator; and all Persons indebted to said Estate are also requested to settle their accounts within the same period.

FRANCIS PEABODY, Administrator.

Miramichi, 10th Jan., 1828.

NOTICE.—All persons having any just demands against the Estate of Cornelius Hagerman, late of Queensbury, deceased, are requested to render the same attested to, within Three Months from this date, and all those indebted to said Estate are desired to make immediate payment to

ELIZABETH HAGERMAN, Executrix, LAWRENCE HAGERMAN, Executor.

Queensbury, 3d September, 1828. 3wp

ARMY FORAGE CONTRACT

Assistant Commissary-General's Office, } St. John, 9th August, 1828. }

PERSONS desirous of contracting to supply His Majesty's Troops with Forage at the undermentioned places, for one year, commencing on the 25th October next, are hereby informed that Sealed Tenders will be received at this Office on or before the 23d day of September next, at 12 o'clock.

The number of Rations required daily, will be about 10 at St. John, and 15 at Fredericton, liable, however, to some variation during the Summer months, when some of the parties entitled to Forage change their residence from Fredericton to this place. The Ration of Forage to consist of—

10 Pounds of OATS, } PER 14 Pounds of HAY, and } DIEM. 6 Pounds of STRAW, }

The Oats to be of a sweet and wholesome quality, and not to weigh less than 32lbs. per bushel.

The Hay to be Upland, sweet and good, either Timothy, Clover, or a mixture of both, and to have been cut at least three months previous to delivery.

The Straw to be either Wheat, Oaten, or Barley, and of a dry and proper quality.

The Contractor will issue the Forage on orders from the Commissariat, to the Staff Departments and Regiment every week, (if required,) at his depot in the Town of the respective places.

It will be expected that the Contractor shall have in his possession at all times, at least two months supply, and that his Magazine will be open for inspection of the Commissariat whenever it may be thought proper to visit it.

The Tenders to express the rate in sterling per Ration, and to be made separately for each place, stated above, accompanied by a letter from two persons of known property, engaging to become bound with the party tendering, in the sum which will be made known on application at this office, as well as all other particulars which may be considered necessary to the persons tendering for these Supplies.

Payment will be made every two months on regular Vouchers, (forms of which can be obtained at this office,) in Bills of Exchange, upon their Lordships of His Majesty's Treasury, at the rate of £100, for every £101 10, due upon the Contract, or in Cash at the option of the Commissariat.

FOR SALE.

A Set of Mill Irons and a Mill Saw. Enquire at the Royal Gazette Office. May 27, 1828.

PROTECTION INSURANCE COMPANY.

THIS Office will continue to insure as usual against loss or damage by fire, on the most reasonable terms, on application to the Agent, JAMES BALLOCH. Fredericton, June 26, 1827.

CASH GIVEN FOR CLEAN LINEN AND COTTON RAGS AT THIS OFFICE.