

## III. OBITUARY NOTICES.

*Dr. H. N. van der Tuuk.*

The *Nederlandsche Spectator* contains an obituary notice, by Professor Kern, of Dr. H. N. van der Tuuk, in whose death we mourn the loss of the greatest Malayan scholar of this century. Born in the Dutch East Indies, and educated in Holland, he brought out, as the fruit of eight years' residence amongst the Bataks of Sumatra, a Batak dictionary and reader (the latter in four volumes), and a grammar of the Toba dialect. Subsequently he spent some time in London in cataloguing the Malay manuscripts of the East India House and the Royal Asiatic Society; and before his second return to India he brought out two Malay text-books, and several important treatises on the Lampong language and literature. Some twenty years ago he took up his residence at Buleleng, in the island of Bali, for the purpose of elaborating a Kawi-Balinese-Dutch dictionary. He had only just commenced to carry this important work through the Press when death overtook him. He was also the author of a revised edition of Von de Wall's Malay dictionary in three volumes, and contributed many valuable articles to the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, and to the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Batavia* and of the *Asiatic Society of the Hague*.

*Dr. Trailokya Nath Mitra.*

Dr. Trailokya Nath Mitra was born at Kounagur on the 2nd of May, 1844. His father, Babu Joy Gopal Mitra, was a clerk in a merchant's office. His was a large family, and it was not without difficulty that he managed to make both ends meet. Young Trailokya Nath grew into a vigorous, diligent, and self-reliant boy. He was first sent to Serampur to receive his rudimentary education. Subsequently he went to Utterparah, and was admitted into the local school on the 11th May, 1855. In April,

1859, when he was practically in the Second Class, he passed the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University. In 1860 he went up for and successfully passed the Senior Scholarship Examination, heading the list of the successful candidates. In the next year, 1861, he passed the First Examination in Arts, and stood second in order of merit. In 1863 he passed the Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, and secured the first place. In 1864 he obtained the Degree of Master of Arts, and again headed the list of the successful candidates. In 1865 he passed the Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Law in the First Division, standing second in order of merit. In 1867 he received Honours in Law, and in 1877 the University of Calcutta conferred on him the Degree of Doctor in Law, the highest honour it can bestow.

A career so brilliant could not pass without recognition. In 1864, just after he had obtained the M.A. Degree, Dr. Trailokya Nath was appointed Lecturer in Mathematics at the Presidency College. This he held till 1865, when he was appointed Law Lecturer and officiating Professor of Philosophy in the Hughli College. The Chair of Philosophy fell vacant when Mr. (now Sir Alfred) Croft went on leave, and it was no mean compliment paid to the varied learning and brilliant intellect of the young man that he was chosen to fill it. He held both these offices for about a year, when he resigned his appointment as Professor of Philosophy and joined the Bar, retaining his appointment as Law Lecturer. It is said that Mr. Atkinson, who was then Director of Public Instruction, offered him an appointment in the higher grades of the Bengal Educational Service, but Dr. Trailokya Nath chose to follow the profession of Law. And no one can doubt that his subsequent career amply justified his choice.

It was in 1867 that Dr. Trailokya Nath joined the Hughli Bar; within a year he became a prominent member, and, step by step, he rose to the very top of the ladder. He practised at Hughli for about eight years with great distinction and uniform success. We are

informed that it was Mr. Justice Markby who advised Dr. Trailokya Nath to try his chance in the High Court of Calcutta. Justice Markby was then at Hughli on a tour of inspection, when the forensic talents and eloquence of young Trailokya Nath made so favourable an impression upon him that he encouraged him to go and practise in the High Court. So Dr. Trailokya Nath secured a Law Lecturership in the Presidency College, and joined the High Court in 1875. His achievements in this field need not be dilated upon, but this much may be said, that his position was very high indeed, and that he was well within reach of the highest prizes which the profession can offer.

Dr. Trailokya Nath was made a Fellow of the Calcutta University in 1879, along with his friends Dr. Guru Das Banerjee and Dr. Rash Bihari Ghosh. He was appointed Tagore Law Lecturer in 1879, and his work on the Law relating to the Hindu Widows is a standard work on the subject. He was Chairman of the Serampur Municipality for about ten years, and greatly distinguished himself in the Municipal Board, especially in his controversy with Dr. Lidderdale about the sanitation of Serampur, in connection with which he wrote a minute which won for him the admiration of all classes, and elicited the encomium even of the *Times* newspaper. He was elected a member of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland in November, 1893. Lately, on the resignation of Dr. Rash Bihari Ghosh, the Faculty of Law of the University of Calcutta elected him as their President, and he was also elected a member of the Syndicate. He was a candidate for election to the Legislative Council of Bengal, and had a very good chance of being returned; but on the 18th of April, 1895, Dr. Trailokya Nath Mitra died of fever at Bhowanipur. The universal expressions of regret which followed the announcement of his death indicate the high esteem in which he was held by all who knew him.

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